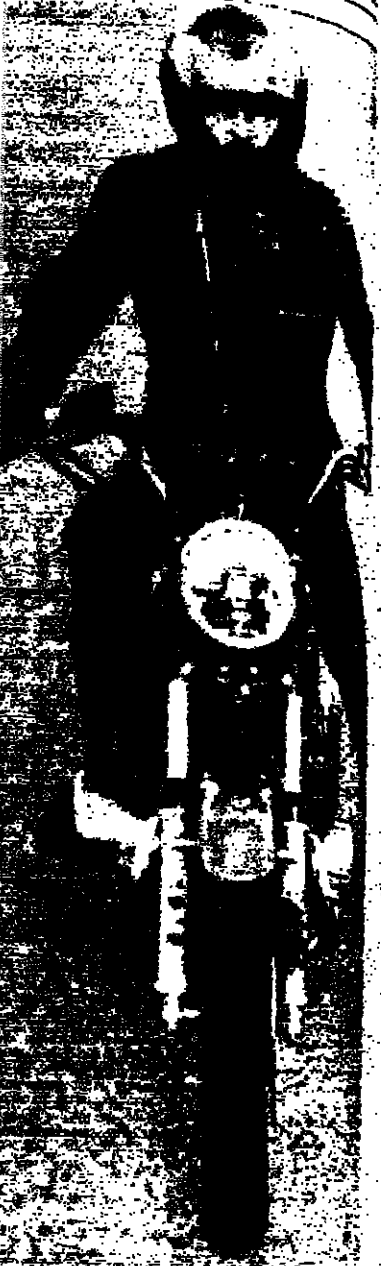


SATURDAY OCTOBER 28

International Motor Cycle



See how the Earl has won

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Design an icon, win a trip to the Olympics

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THE TIMES

No. 65,410

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 1995

Palace condemns 'trick' Hoaxers broadcast talk with Queen

By OLIVER AUGUST AND TOM RHODES

THE QUEEN was duped into discussing the Quebec referendum in a telephone conversation with a comedian who pretended to be the Canadian Prime Minister.

The discussion, which lasted 17 minutes, was broadcast on Montreal radio last night and the Queen was heard speaking in both English and French.

Pierre Brassard, who has previously tricked the Pope into an interview using the same ruse, was put through to the Queen on Thursday after she had taken a series of calls from the Prime Minister Jean Chretien. On this occasion, however, M. Chretien was campaigning for Mr. May's referendum on whether Quebec should separate from the rest of Canada.

During the conversation, the Queen unwittingly promised to back Canadian unity, saying "If I can help in any way I will be very happy to do so."

M. Brassard went on to tell her that there could be a monetary crisis in Canada as a result of the referendum and discussed whether to put her picture on a \$2 bill or on a discount tyre store cash coupon.

Only when Buckingham Palace staff returned the call did they discover that they had been fooled. Last night the Palace confirmed that M. Brassard's call had been connected and said: "The whole incident was extremely regrettable."

A spokesman added: "This was a carefully-contrived confidence trick. This person misrepresented himself throughout. M. Chretien is well known to the Queen and to senior Palace officials, but the hoaxer is clearly able to mimic the Canadian Prime Minister exactly. We are told that he has done this kind of thing before."

"It is regrettable, particularly that someone should misrepresent themselves as a

head of government in this way. Hoaxers may have tried to get through to the Queen in the past, but they didn't succeed. The fact that this person did get through is an irritant when the Queen has more important things to do."

M. Brassard broadcast the conversation on his show on the Montreal-based radio station CKOI last night and sent a fax to Buckingham Palace saying the call was intended as an innocuous joke and that he meant no disrespect by it. The French-language rock station — pronounced C'est quoi? — is aimed at young people and is well-known for pulling such pranks.

Julie Lesertre, a programme for the show, said: "I cannot tell you how he got through, but I can confirm that Pierre, as Jean Chretien, spoke to the Queen for some time and she was extremely nice."

M. Brassard, who specialises in mimicking politicians, is a member of a comic troupe called Les Bleus Poudres (the Blue Powders), who have made their name by telephoning famous people.

Last April he telephoned the Pope pretending to be Mr Chretien and hours later their 18-minute conversation was broadcast on CKOI-FM.

The interviewer told the Pope that he intended to amend the constitution to guarantee the right to life. The Pope said: "I hope that will help us doing the (women's) international conference in Peking."

The Pope was then asked if he would make another visit to Canada. He replied: "Not right now." M. Brassard then asked the Pope if he would attach a toy propeller to his hat before admitting who he was. The Pope took the hoax in good spirits, laughed and said: "God bless you and God bless Canada," before ringing off.

The Canadian Broadcasting Company said that it was unlikely that action would be taken against CKOI. "They are just a bunch of comedians," an official said. "They have got through to the head of state in Haiti once and to the Pope. I don't think the authorities will take action against him. It is just a joke."

Refund rally, page 13



The Queen: duped into 17-minute radio conversation with impersonator

Alcohol binge clue to Yeltsin illness

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN'S disappearance from public view after his high-profile trip to America has raised speculation that he may have gone on a drinking binge and fallen ill two days before he was admitted to hospital suffering from a serious heart complaint.

According to reports in Moscow, there is growing circumstantial evidence to suggest that the Russian leader's condition deteriorated soon after he boarded a flight home after his meeting with President Clinton on Monday.

Journalists accompanying the President were scheduled to be briefed by him before he left New York and he was due to give a television interview once his plane landed in Moscow. Both meetings were cancelled without explanation and the Russian leader has not been seen in public since Monday. According to one report in Moscow, the airport

footage shown on state-controlled television news was probably archive film, since it showed a wet runway on a day that it had not been raining.

It has been suggested that the Russian leader's ill health was brought on by a repeat of the episode at Shannon airport last year. During a stop-over on his way home from America, Mr Yeltsin was incapable of meeting Irish leaders on the runway because of a suspected drinking bout.

Although it is widely accepted that on doctors' orders the Russian leader stopped drinking alcohol after a heart seizure last June, he reportedly "relaxed" on the flight home after a tough five-day schedule. The latest allegations are bound to deepen doubts among Russians about the state of their leader's health.

Out of action, page 15
Leading article, page 21

TV licence for Dyke

A consortium led by two millionaire socialists, Greg Dyke and Lord Hollick, won the licence to run Britain's fifth national television channel. Broadcasting authorities rejected a higher bid.

Mr Dyke's bid promised hospital soap opera from the producers of *Neighbours*, a risqué late-night slot called *5 Late* featuring alternative entertainment and chat and a host of re-runs. Page 2

Archbishop of York knighted

The new Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, was "bowed over" to find himself being knighted by the Queen on Thursday when he went to pay homage before taking up his appointment.

Dr Hope said he discovered he was to be invested with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victoria Order only ten minutes before he was received by the Queen. It was a "total surprise".

Compensation for women as judge condemns asbestos firm

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO women yesterday became the first to win compensation for the effects of asbestos, even though neither had worked with the material.

Their High Court victory in Leeds against the British-based multinational T&N, whose conduct of its case was severely criticised by the judge, could trigger scores of claims from victims whose only connection with cancer-causing asbestos was living near a factory producing it.

T&N, which was called Turner & Newall until 1987, has already paid £250 million worldwide to people directly affected by asbestosis and other related diseases.

The test cases were brought by two people who had spent their childhood more than 50 years ago living under the shadow of the T&N subsidiary JW Roberts and had developed asbestos-provoked cancers in later life. The factory in the Armley district of Leeds made insulating mattresses for steam engine boilers. It closed in 1959.

June Hancock, 59, who was awarded £65,000, is dying of mesothelioma, a cancer of the chest lining. As a child in the late 1930s and early 1940s, she played among the dust that drifted from Roberts's into the surrounding back-to-back terraces. Her doctors have told her she has little more than two years to live. She began her action 13 months ago after her mother had died from the same ailment: soon after-

wards she herself was diagnosed a victim.

Evelyn Margerison, 69, was awarded £50,000 for the death four years ago of her husband Arthur, a lorry driver. He too had mesothelioma. She took up the claim he had originally begun in 1991. Mr Margerison had lived near the factory from soon after his birth in 1925 until the 1950s. Both women had legal aid.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Holland said that Roberts had paid far less attention to controlling asbestos dust than other factories. One survey had indicated that it could have reduced the escapes by up to 85 per cent. Instead, it had chosen to spend the money on higher wages to overcome employees' fears of the long-term effects of exposure to asbestos.

The judge painted a picture of a callous multinational which had long ago lost any benevolent attitude to the community in which it was based. He accused T&N of deliberately trying to delay the case.

He said there was "a wish to contest these claims by any means possible, legitimate or otherwise, so as to wear them down by attrition".

There had been difficulties over disclosing documents and the two claimants had been greatly helped by lawyers in New York using American rights of access to papers in a parallel claim by the Chase Manhattan Bank over asbestos in its headquarters.

Fans waft the secret of the perfect greenhouse

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have cracked the secret of the perfect greenhouse. Carefully sited fans are the key to boosting crops and minimising disease. British researchers have found.

The findings, based on studies with tomatoes, have been made possible by the use of

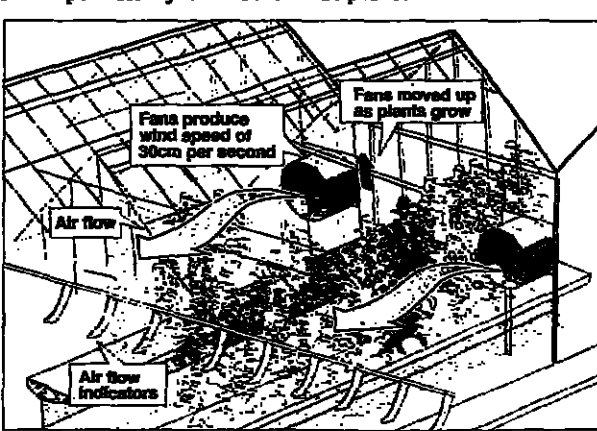
computer models of the kind employed to study air flows round a supersonic plane. While the research is aimed at commercial growers, it offers handy hints to improve the growing environment of the garden greenhouse, might be improved.

The research is being carried out by a team led by Dr Bernard Bailey at the Silsoe Research Institute with funding from the Horticulture Development Council and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Computer tests have shown that generating air flows of 1,000 cm a second will increase the transpiration of young tomato plants by up to 50 per cent. Even at wind speeds of between 20 and 30 cm a second — and well within the range of a household fan — transpiration can rise by up to a fifth.

Dr Paul Biscoe, deputy director of the institute, said transpiration was a measure of how fast water is being drawn from the leaves and thus the amount of carbon dioxide entering the plant.

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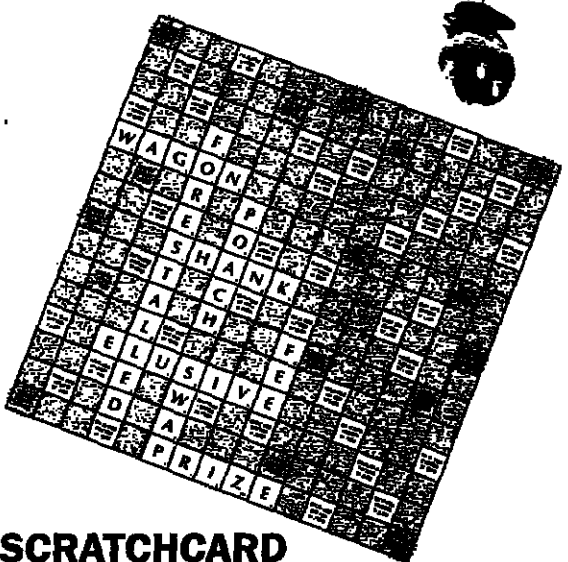
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YOU CAN'T AFFORD
TO BE WITHOUT ITThey picked us for diversity, says Roland Rat millionaire
**Legal threats as Channel 5 is
won by second-highest bidder**BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A CONSORTIUM led by two millionaire socialists, Greg Dyke and Lord Hollick, won the licence to run Britain's fifth national television channel yesterday after a higher bid was unexpectedly rejected.

Two of the defeated bidders were last night understood to be threatening legal action against the Independent Television Commission's decision to award the ten-year licence to Channel 5 Broadcasting. The new station, backed by Pearson, owner of the *Financial Times*, and M&A, the financial services and broadcasting company, will go on air in January 1997.

Mr Dyke, who masterminded the bid as head of Pearson Television and who is credited with saving TV-am by introducing the puppet Roland Rat to its schedules, said that his £22 million bid had won because it promised the most diversity. "We will produce some innovative stuff, which we hope will be offensive. I believe that part of the broadcasters' role is to push back boundaries," he said.

Lord Hollick, chief executive of M&A, said: "There is room for a new national channel that has a combination of general entertainment and factual programming which is not bossy, but helps people cope with life."

A hospital soap opera from the producers of *Neighbours*, a risqué late-night slot featuring alternative entertainment and chat, and re-runs, such as *Minder*, will form the backbone of Channel 5's broadcasting. Its flagship news programme will run at 8pm on weekdays, followed by a ten-minute current affairs feature. Produced by ITN, it will place a strong emphasis on the environment and will have a "European" outlook.

With an annual programme budget of £110 million, the station is unlikely to be able to compete for the rights to top sporting events.

Advertisers welcomed the



Greg Dyke celebrating the award: "Broadcasters' role is to push boundaries"

choice. The agency J Walter Thompson said: "The companies involved in the Channel 5 bid have a pedigree of producing programming which advertisers find desirable, namely *Survival*, *Minder* and *Wish You Were Here*. Channel 5 will offer increased competition and choice for advertisers and consumers."

Critics described the choice as an "establishment stitch-up". David Asper, lead member of UKTV, the Canadian-led consortium which had submitted a bid worth more than £36 million, said: "Considering that we were the highest bid, and are confident that we exceeded every other threshold, our group will be meeting shortly to review the

commission's decision and to consider our position."

Robert Devereux, chairman of Virgin TV, which was backed by Richard Branson and submitted an identical financial bid to Channel 5 Broadcasting, said: "We strongly disagree with the commission's subjective judgments about matters of commercial viability."

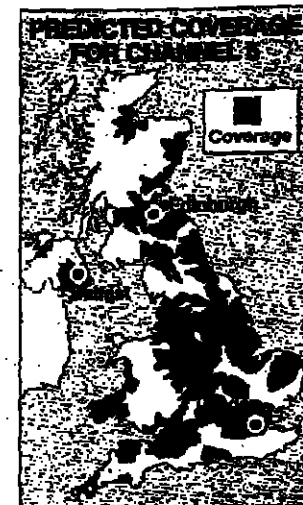
UKTV and Virgin TV are expected to take legal advice on Monday about whether to mount a legal challenge to the commission's decision. Their only option is to seek leave to apply for a judicial review of the commission's selection process.

Sir George Russell, chairman of the ten-member com-

mission, said that UKTV and Virgin TV had failed to meet programme quality standards.

An unacceptably high 50 per cent of UKTV's proposed programming consisted of repeats, Sir George said. "The range of programming from 6.30pm to 10.30pm on weekdays consisted (apart from presentation elements) entirely of drama series and entertainment. The only factual programming other than news and presentation in peak time was between 7pm and 8pm on Sundays."

Virgin TV's programming contained "little sign of innovation or of programmes of a special one-off character" and made no commitment to any



factual programming in peak

time before the sixth year of

the licence, Sir George said.

New Century Television, a group backed by Granada Television and BSkyB, met the commission's quality standards but was ruled out because its bid of £2 million was below that of Channel 5 Broadcasting.

M&A, which also owns the Anglia and Meridian ITV franchises, and Pearson Television will also supply programmes to the station. Channel 5 Broadcasting is also backed by CLT, the Luxembourg-based media group, and the American bank Warburg Pincus.

Channel 5 is first aiming for an audience share of about 5 per cent, roughly equivalent to half the viewers of Channel 4. The station will be free to view and initially will be available to 70 per cent of the country, about 16.4 million homes. It is planning to "fill in" the holes by putting the station on cable networks.

Video recorders and satellite receivers in an estimated 4.7 million homes will have to be returned to avoid interference when Channel 5 launches.

Next summer Channel 5 will send out an army of uniformed technicians. They travel in marked vehicles and carry identity cards. In some areas, viewers will need extra roof-top aerials.

Adams says
IRA arms
are needed
for defence

Gerry Adams ruled out last night any decommissioning of IRA arms before all-party talks on Northern Ireland. He said nationalists lived in fear of attack from loyalist and "British forces". In a *Belfast Telegraph* article, the Sinn Féin leader added: "No responsible republican can advocate that the nationalist community... be left defenceless and vulnerable."

Royal gatecrash

A former student who caused £50,000 damage to Buckingham Palace gates after driving into them last January was placed on probation for two years by Southwark Crown Court. John Gillard, 22, from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was disqualified from driving for a year.

Five questioned

Five men from Edinburgh were detained by police investigating crowd disorder at the title fight in which the boxer Jim Murray was fatally injured on October 13. The men, one aged 19 and the others in their early 20s, were taken to police stations in the city and later released.

Health inquiry

A health authority official has been suspended after allegations that he was planning to set up his own private health care company. Officials have launched an inquiry into the activities of Robert Bridge, deputy finance director of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health Authorities.

Sex case PC jailed

A policeman who had sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old schoolgirl after developing an obsession for her was jailed for 12 months yesterday at Reading Crown Court. PC Mark Sedley, admitted guilty of sexual intercourse and indecent assault.

Smoking contract

A team of three law firms is to represent everyone suing for smoking-related diseases on legal aid. Mr Justice Sedley rejected an application by a group of smokers to the High Court to seek a judicial review of the Legal Aid Board's decision to award the monopoly contract.

Lyceum to rock

The Lyceum Theatre is to reopen with a revival of *Jessie Christ Superstar*, the Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice rock musical, next autumn. It is more than 50 years since the building, currently being refurbished, was used as a theatre. The show was a huge hit in the 1970s.

Shepherd plans U-turn on school ballots

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS will lose the right to vote on whether their children's school should opt out of local authority control under Government proposals published yesterday to revive the grant-maintained policy.

The proposed scrapping of opt-out ballots for the 4,032 church schools was blamed by the Government on "acrimony and propaganda" surrounding the issue.

The move marks a dramatic change in the Government's education policy, which has trumpeted "parental choice" as its guiding principle. The consultation period for the proposals ends on November 24, with the Government intending to produce a Bill in the next parliamentary session.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education

and Employment Secretary, published a consultation paper yesterday offering six options to make opting out easier. Last month John Major told grant-maintained school heads that he wanted to cut all schools' ties with local education authorities.

The most radical "fast-track" proposal is to set a date when all aided schools become grant-maintained automatically without a parental ballot. Schools would be allowed to remain with local authorities only if governors insisted on staying with the authorities after the deadline expired.

A second proposal is to increase the money delegated from local authorities to schools from the present average of about 85 per cent to much nearer 100 per cent. An alternative would be to remove all the local authority governors and replace them with elected parents. *The Times* disclosed on Mon-

day that a plan to make all schools grant-maintained at a stroke was being considered for the next Conservative election manifesto. Ministers are anxious to kickstart a policy which has stalled in the last year. Some 1,072 of the 24,000 state schools are grant-maintained but fewer than 50 have voted to make the switch this year.

Just 350 voluntary aided schools have chosen to opt out since the policy was introduced in 1988.

Mrs Shepherd said aided schools were already just "a short step" from self-governing status. The school buildings of aided schools are owned by the Church or educational trusts, rather than the local authority.

Her consultation paper said: "Too often the debate is pulled towards wider political issues and away from consideration of the specific interests of the school concerned." The paper adds:

"It is clear that in those circumstances ballots can be unnecessarily stressful experiences for head teachers, governors and parents."

It suggests the parental ballot could be abandoned so governors would make any decision on a school's future. They would still have to take "proper account" of parents' views. The other measures under consultation include shortening the time limits for becoming grant-maintained and removing the need for Government as well as parental agreement.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said: "The Government is trying to impose the heavy hand of the state on Church schools. Seeking to deny parents a ballot goes against choice, while trying to force schools which do not want to be grant-maintained to opt out reduces diversity."

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Adams says IRA arms are needed for defence

Gerard Adams ruled out tonight any decommissioning of IRA arms before talks on Northern Ireland. He said nationalists must be "British forces" and "British forces" must be "British forces".

John Bruton, the Taoiseach, said the British Government would not be asked to consider the removal of the IRA from the territory of Northern Ireland.

Five questioned: Five men from Ealing were detained by police on suspicion of being involved in the murder of a man in 1991.

Health inquiry: A health authority has been suspended in a case where a woman was found to have been sexually abused.

Sex case PC jailed: A police officer who had a sexual relationship with a woman was found guilty of sexual assault.

Smoking contr: A man who had a cigarette while driving was found guilty of driving while disqualified.

Prison to road: A man who had been in prison for a long time was found guilty of driving while disqualified.

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Prison to road: A man who had been in prison for a long time was found guilty of driving while disqualified.

Going south, two adventurers set out this week for solitary months in search of the ends of the earth

Tomorrow the world for lone yachtswoman

BY DAVID MILLER

SAMANTHA BREWSTER spent a day this week learning how to sail. The lesson was in a hospital, and she was taught how to stitch her own flesh in case of emergency.

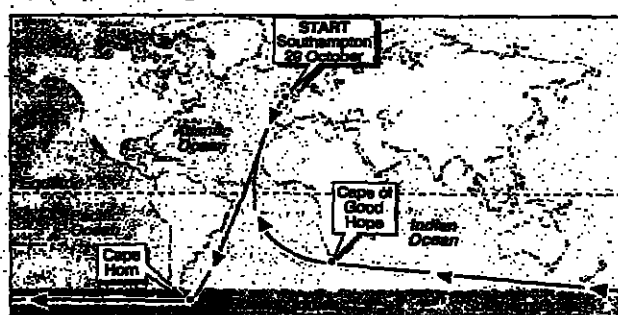
Tomorrow the single, 28-year-old sets sail alone from Southampton in an attempt to break the world non-stop circumnavigation record, east to west, the "wrong way" round Cape Horn and against the Roaring Forties of the Southern Ocean. The starting gun will be fired by Chay Blyth.

It is a monstrous challenge. The slim, relatively small woman, known to her friends as Sam, will take the wheel of a 67ft cutter-rigged steel sloop. The voyage requires the mental resolution of a paratrooper.

Sitting having lunch in Belgravia, beside Hyde Park, she was dressed in pale primrose silk jacket and crepe navy slacks, and looked more like a young executive than a gung-ho heroine. But no, Brewster says, she's not afraid. Not for the moment.

"When I'm thousands of miles from shore, and if I'm injured, then I'll be scared. The thought of that is frightening. But I'm a very careful person."

In the limitless wastes of the ferocious oceans, the response to crisis is not instant action, she says, but considered action — assuming that the crisis



Stores for the journey, designed to last for up to 200 days, include: one bottle of rum, two tubs of Marmite, four tins of spinach, five boxes of shortbread, six tins of prawns, seven boxes of crisps, 12 jars of mussels, 24 boxes of Italian sausage, 500 long-life dried meals including lamb casserole, hotpot, steak casserole, lasagna and cannelloni, 36 boxes of porridge, six jars each of honey, strawberry and apricot jam, marmalade and lemon curd, two tubs of instant coffee, three tubs of hot chocolate, 36 boxes of powdered orange drink, 15kg of jelly babies, 48 Mars Bars, 96 Kit Kats, 25 kg each of cocktail gherkins, olives and pickled eggs, large amounts of flour, pasta, rice and margarine, 150 English apples, and 14 tubs of dried fruit and nuts.

is not the imminent threat of sinking. "You make a cup of tea, and think about it," she says, sounding unusually like a speaker at a WVS meeting.

She has, self-evidently, thought a great deal since being one of the 14 crew volunteers on the same boat, *Heath Insured*, when she was deputy helmswoman, mast rigger and sail mender on the identical 28,000-mile course of the British Steel Challenge Race of 1992-93. The idea of

her solo attempt occurred during Chay Blyth's wedding reception, after quite a lot of champagne.

She asked John McKenzie-Green, the Group Four Security managing director, one of four main sponsors with C E Heath (insurance), Premium Search (insurance) and Trade Identity (credit management), whether he would back her. He was enthusiastic — though he did vet her credentials, she subsequently learnt.

with Adrian Donovan, her skipper on the British Steel Race.

Her worst fear, injury apart, is personal failure. She is no feminist, she insists. Yet is she not, surely, trying to prove something?

"I don't think so. I've always had a project. I need that. It's more of a career opportunity, a hobby I've turned into a career."

As a girl growing up on a small holding in Badingham, Suffolk — chickens, horses — she sailed in dinghies, then raced Fireballs. At nine, her parents had an amicable divorce. Her father died three years ago. You sense she is subconsciously proving the self-reliance she learnt on the farm from her mother. She admits to being a loner.

"I'm not a people person, I'm horrible," she says. "Given the choice of a jolly night out or being alone with a book, I'll choose the latter. I'd rather go hill climbing alone than in a group." Until recently she lived and worked at an outdoor pursuits centre in Ambleside, Cumbria, following a teaching degree course.

She wonders whether she will have the necessary strength to beat the record. Although *Heath Insured* has every conceivable mechanical aid after a £100,000 refit, it takes her 40 minutes to raise the full main sail. "I know I can handle it, but not whether I can push it," she says.



Samantha Brewster at the helm. "I'm not scared, I know that I can do it," she says

Challenge of going round the hard way

BY EDWARD GORMAN

CHAY BLYTH defied all doubters in 1972 when he sailed the "wrong way" round the world in the 57ft ketch *British Steel*, taking 236 days.

The record stood unchallenged until last year, when Mike Golding set out on a yacht sponsored by Group 4, completing a circumnavigation in just 161 days. In recognition of his achievement, his sponsors created a permanent award to the record-holder, the Group 4 Global Challenge Trophy, which Samantha Brewster now hopes to win.

Even if she fails to beat his time, she would become the first woman to sail the wrong way round the world.

Beating Golding will be extremely tough. He pushed himself and his boat to the limit, flying his spinnaker at every opportunity — once for 14 days without a break. Only on the return journey was he seriously delayed by light winds.

The new challenger has a quicker boat. Brewster has also removed large parts of the forward accommodation, including the main galley table and both lavatories — she will use a bucket. Golding believes she can beat him and looks forward to following her progress.

Briton races Norwegian across Antarctica again

BY EDWARD GORMAN

AN ENGLISHMAN will set out next week to try to complete one of the greatest Polar journeys, a solo unsupported crossing of Antarctica.

Mirroring the epic race to the South Pole in 1911 between Captain Robert Scott and Roald Amundsen, Roger Mear will be racing the Norwegian explorer, Borge Ousland, who will set out on the same journey just a few days after him.

Mr Mear, 45, an experienced climber and former member of the British Antarctic Survey, will be helped in his crossing by a giant kite which, in place of huskies, will help to drag him and his sledge the 1,700 miles across the frozen icecap.

The kite is a development of the use of sail power pioneered by Captain Scott. Mr Mear hopes he will be able to use the kite to assist him for at least a tenth of the journey.

Speaking yesterday from Antarctica where he is preparing for departure, possibly on Wednesday, Mr Mear reflected on the magnitude of the task he has set himself. "This project is so big, the Antarctic is so big. If I thought about whether it is possible to do, to be at the finish, it just overwhelms you. All I can do now is concentrate on the thing in front, hour by hour and day by day," he said.

The journey should take about 100 days. Mr Mear, who has already walked to the South Pole and made attempts on Everest and K2, will aver-

age about 17 miles a day dragging a sledge weighing 450lb. He will require up to 6,000 calories a day which means his diet will include tiny high-energy biscuits and dried foods developed by nutrition experts at Stansbury.

Sir Ernest Shackleton was the first to think of crossing Antarctica in 1914. But he was unable to start his attempt after his ship *Endurance* was crushed by pack ice. Although it has since been crossed by means of snowcat, Skidoo,



dogs and skis, these journeys have all been accompanied by aircraft support, dropping spare food and equipment along the way.

If he succeeds, Mr Mear will be the first to complete the journey entirely alone. The race with Mr Ousland will be exciting, however. The Norwegian has already been to the North Pole and beaten Sir Ranulph Fiennes in the process. Mr Mear will start at the Weddell Sea, travel south

across the South Pole, cross the Beardmore Glacier before ending at Ross Island, where he hopes to rendezvous with a Russian ice-breaker to sail to Tasmania.

His progress and that of Mr Ousland can be monitored on the Internet (www.theplanet.net/solokantarctica/). Their positions will be charted via satellite links carried on the sledges. (To send messages of support, email roger.mear@theplanet.net.)

Apart from his attempts on Everest and K2, Mr Mear's climbing exploits include an ascent of the north face of the Eiger in winter, the first winter ascent of the Cassin Ridge on Mount McKinley and a solo winter ascent of Mount Erebus — the first time an Antarctic mountain had been climbed in winter.

His unsupported journey to the South Pole in 1985 with two companions was the first time anyone had walked there since Captain Scott, a feat for which Mr Mear was awarded the Queen's Polar Medal. He subsequently wrote of his experiences in his book *In the Footsteps of Scott*.

The record for an unsupported polar journey on foot is held by Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr Michael Stroud for their epic venture in 1993. They walked and sailed 1,311 miles across Antarctica without resupply, terminating their journey 346 miles short of the coast on the "Great Ice Barrier" — an area of permanent ice the size of France.



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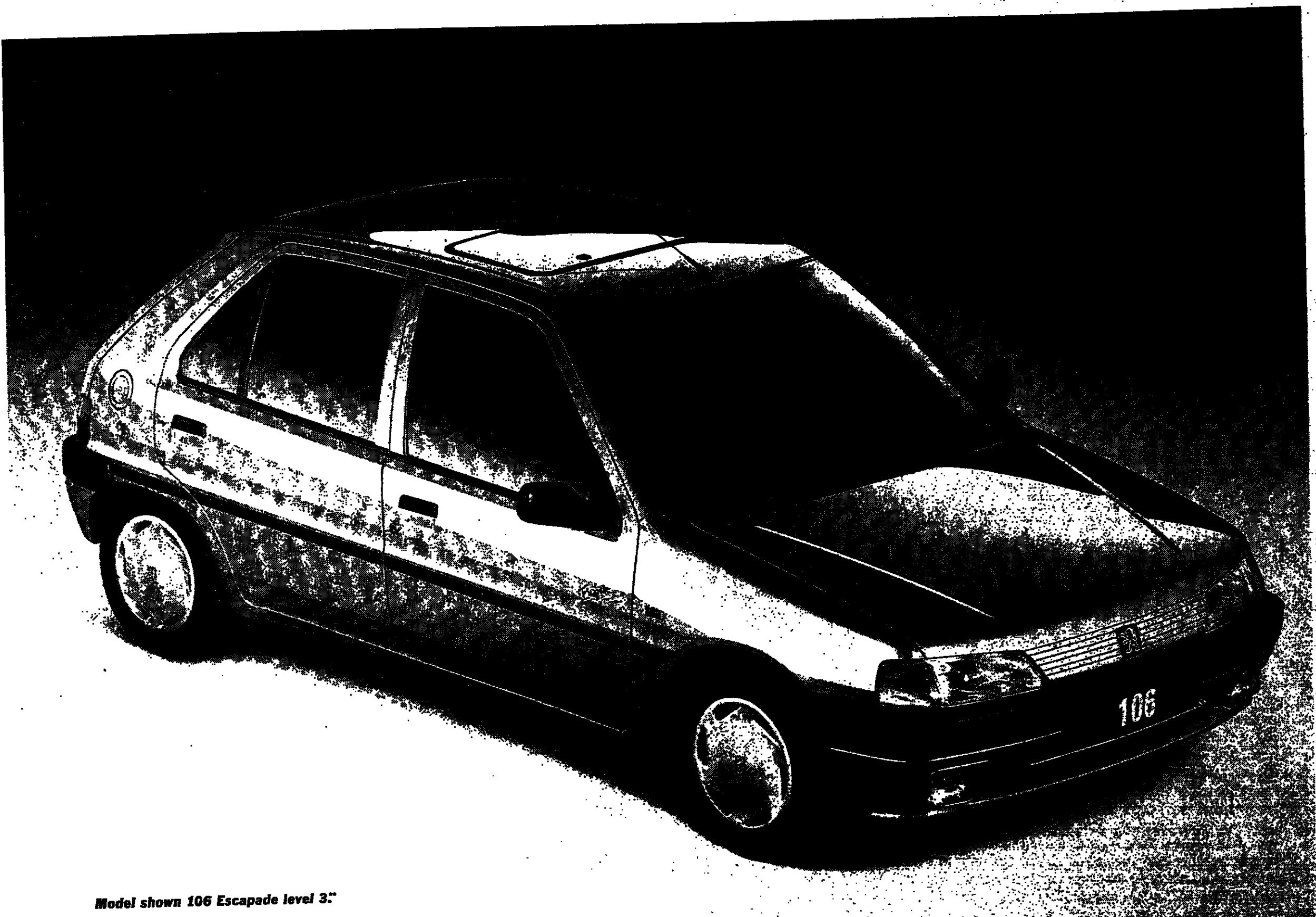
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Roald Amundsen, left, and Captain Scott, who vied to reach the South Pole in 1911

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Jails 'on road to concentration camp'

Tumim condemns prisons report as morally wrong

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE Learmont report on jail security was denounced yesterday by the Chief Inspector of Prisons, who said that it had opened "the road to the concentration camp".

Judge Stephen Tumim urged the Home Secretary to disregard the thrust of the report, which he said had got the balance wrong between security and humanity.

Judge Tumim's outburst came as *The Times* learnt that the Prison Service and Michael Howard have been sent warnings about lax security at Strangeways jail in Manchester.

During a recent visit, members of the prisons inspectorate were alarmed by inadequate searches at the jail, which can hold up to 900 inmates, and poor monitoring of closed-circuit television.

Immediately after the inspection they set out their concerns in a letter to Richard Hill, then director of security for prisons, with a copy to the Home Secretary. The jail, which was closed in 1990, reopened last year after an £80 million modernisation programme that included installation of the latest security systems.

Sir John Learmont's report into the breakdown from the top-security Parkhurst prison made more than 100 recommendations. They included building a maximum-security jail to hold the most dangerous inmates and consideration of armed response teams and the use of CS gas to deal with jail riots. He also urged that prisoners be given meaningful

employment, education, television in cells as an earned privilege and increased home leave.

Judge Tumim, who stands down next week after eight years as chief inspector, said Sir John "wants to put security above humanity. It's the road to the concentration camp if you go too far along it and it's morally wrong."

"If you put security above humanity what happens if a man tries to climb a wall? On the Learmont doctrine what do you do, shoot him? It's a very dangerous doctrine."

Judge Tumim's criticism reflects concern within the Prison Service that overemphasis on security may damage other work, including dealing with offending behaviour, and lead to control problems.

His attack came only hours after praise from Mr Howard

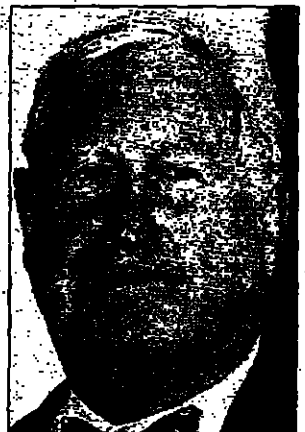
at a farewell party for the chief inspector. The Home Secretary said Judge Tumim had made a contribution to the Prison Service that was without equal. "Throughout his period he has acted as a kind of inspirational god to the Prison Service in a way which has contributed to the public good."

But Michael Stephen, chairman of the Conservative backbench home affairs committee, said Judge Tumim was also guilty of getting the balance wrong. "For the last 30 years people like Judge Tumim have put the interests of the criminal first," he said.

In his final annual report, published yesterday, Judge Tumim called for a national strategy to clamp down on hard drugs in jails. He said there seemed to be little caution over the movement of known drug dealers around the six top-security jails in England and Wales. "We do not doubt that some drug dealers continue to be linked to outside gangs," the report said.

It went on to urge an overhaul of healthcare management in prisons to bring it up to National Health Service standards. Judge Tumim was also critical of aspects of internal communications and called for the service to implement its own policy of requiring staff to wear name badges.

But he also praised the improvements that had taken place in prisons since he took up the post, and the energy and commitment of the staff.



Tumim: standing down after eight years

Burglars escape with rare gems of the potato world

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

SCIENTISTS have appealed to thieves to return rare potatoes stolen from a research centre in Northumberland. Some may be irreplaceable.

About a ton of seed potatoes, including more than 150 different varieties, was taken during a break-in at the Potato Multiplication Unit of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany at Moredun.

David Young, a trials officer at the centre, said: "The tragedy is that the thieves will probably try to sell the potatoes for eating. They are very small and would probably not fetch more than £200 as eaters. Yet some of the varieties

are very rare and may be impossible to replace."

"We are still doing a check to see exactly what we have lost. The potatoes are each about the size of a large egg and come in a variety of colours, red, purple, white and even spotted."

The potatoes were being stored at Moredun before being sent to be planted on experimental farms near Cambridge, where they are used to train inspectors in the recognition of different potato varieties and to build up a collection of rare types.

Mr Young said: "The north of England is seen as a high-

grade seed potato area, mainly because of the climate and lack of disease risks. We have had a spate of break-ins for bits of machinery and the like over the past year but this is the first time potatoes have been taken."

The thieves' haul is thought to include such unusual varieties as Majestic, Golden Wonder and Edzell Blue. A police spokesman said: "We want anyone who is offered unusually shaped or coloured potatoes to contact us. They were packed into 150 brown paper bags, each with a small pink label naming the variety."

Mr Young said: "The north of England is seen as a high-



Billionaire Robert Dart and his wife Katina, who could have expected an even bigger settlement in America

US wife seeking a record payout

A BILLIONAIRE from America won the legal right yesterday to divorce his wife in this country but faces a record-breaking claim for a share of his fortune. Robert Dart will be able to make absolute a decree ending his marriage after the ruling by the Court of Appeal in London.

His wife Katina, who was said by solicitors to be seeking a settlement exceeding the British record of £9 million offered by Friedrich Flick of the Mercedes dynasty

to his wife Maya, wanted the case to be heard in the American courts, where she might expect an even bigger settlement.

Mr Dart was granted a decree nisi in July on the ground of unreasonable behaviour by his wife, who allegedly banned sex. A member of the Dart Container Corp dynasty, whose fortune comes from manufacturing polystyrene containers for fast food, he moved his family to England in 1993 for financial reasons associated

with trusts. He lives in a property in London valued at £5 million and is a citizen of Belize after renouncing American citizenship. Mrs Dart remains an American.

Mrs Dart failed in her fight this year to have the divorce heard in America but has moved back to Michigan and is proceeding with her financial claims in the American courts. Although not recognising the English proceedings, Alan Inglis, her counsel, tried to block the decree absolute being granted. He

argued that she would lose certain rights to the millions in her husband's trust funds and it would create difficulties in enforcing any order in the American courts.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, sitting with Lord Justice Hutchison, said even without the trust funds there was enough money to meet the wildest dreams of any order an English court might make. "The only exceptional circumstance in this case is that this husband is richer than most," she said.

Drought prompts action to save fish

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE National Rivers Authority has invoked drought powers to save fish stocks in two reservoirs in the North West, it announced yesterday.

Releases are being stopped from the Langley Bottoms and Teggsnose reservoirs, which have 19 days of water left. "Sizeable populations of brown trout and pike could suffer," said Mike Egboro, water resources manager. The authority is able to seek drought orders under the Environment Act 1995.

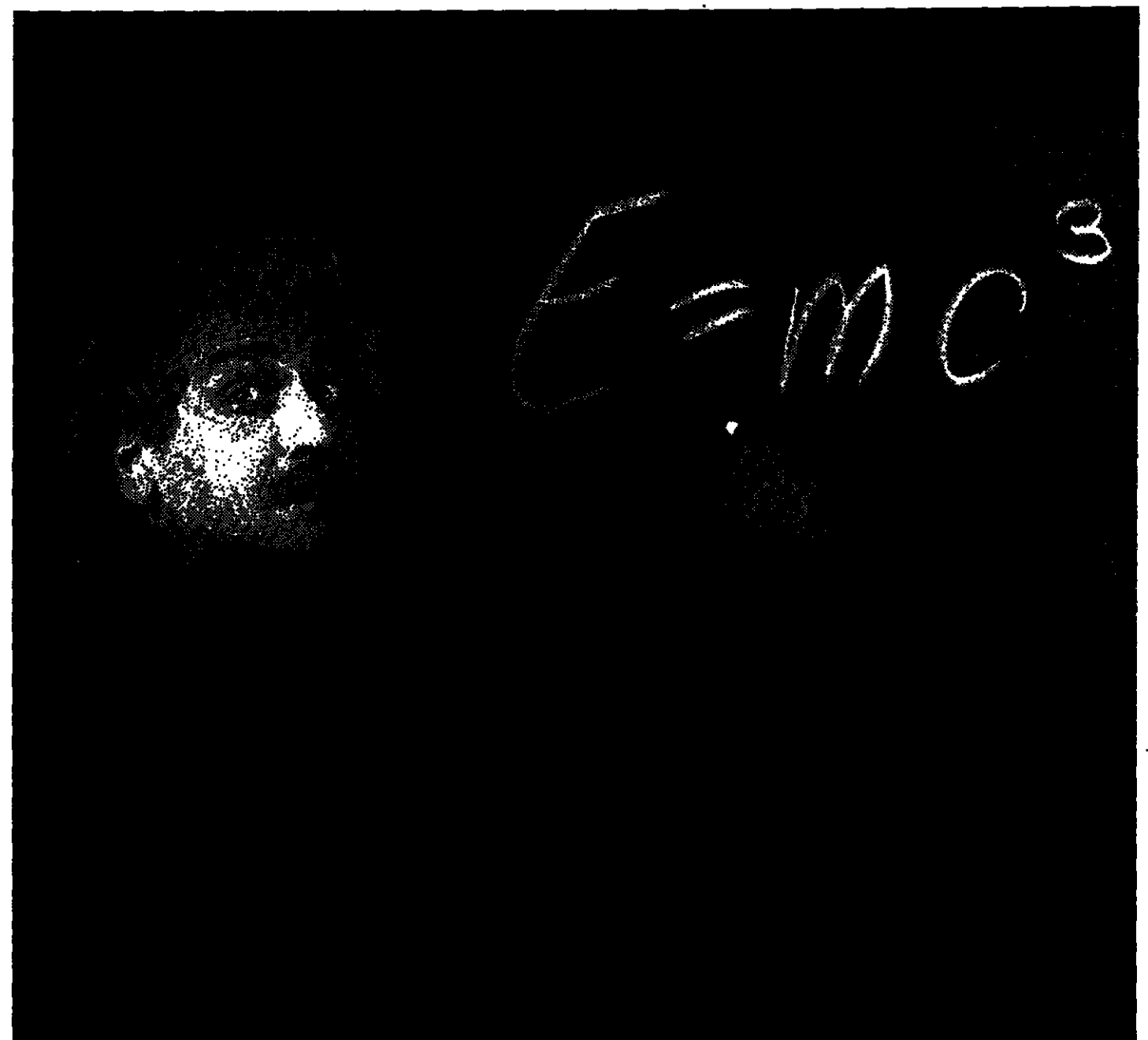
The reservoirs, owned by North West Water, supply the River Bolton but are not directly used for public supply.

As the water shortage in Yorkshire worsened, it was thought that Yorkshire Water, which had withdrawn plans to ration supplies, might be about to apply for restrictions in the Calderdale area. Yesterday it emerged that the company was applying for five drought orders extending existing emergency powers and spreading restrictions.

One of the orders would mean a ban on non-essential use, such as public fountains, in the Leeds and Wakefield areas. Other orders would allow more water to be taken from the River Wharfe, which supplies Bradford; supplies to be taken from two reservoirs; and more to be abstracted from the River Ouse which runs through York.

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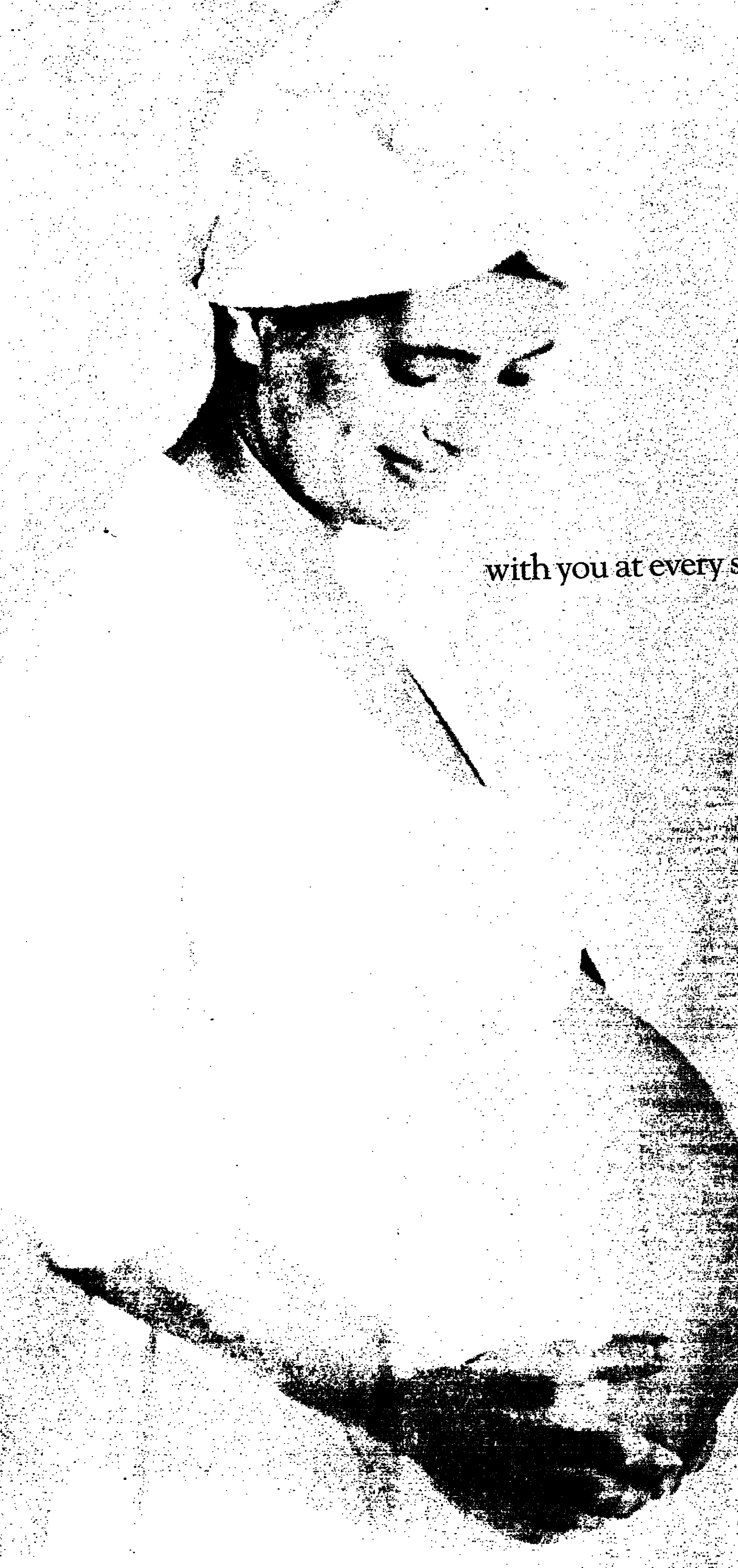
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20/10/95

Increasing incidence of rare disease in teenagers 'is pushing coincidence'



Stephen Churchill, left, who died in May from CJD aged 18, with his family

Fourth farmer dies from illness linked to mad cows

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE death of a 59-year-old farmer from North Wales is being investigated for evidence of Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (CJD). Neville Price died on Wednesday at his home in Llanddaniel, Gwynedd. His body was driven 300 miles for a post-mortem examination at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary yesterday.

Yesterday the Department of Health confirmed that the CJD surveillance unit at Edinburgh had monitored Mr Price, a father of three, during his three months' illness. He is the fourth farmer to die of the disease.

Mr Price's death follows reports in *The Lancet* this week of two cases of CJD in British teenagers. Stephen Churchill, 18, of Devizes, Wiltshire, died in May a year after developing symptoms. A 16-year-old unnamed girl was diagnosed as having CJD in August. She is of Turkish-Cypriot extraction but was

born and brought up in Britain. They developed CJD within a few months of each other, an extremely rare occurrence that has raised fears of a link to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

But yesterday Dr John Collinge, of St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and Dr Robert Will, of Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, who chairs the National CJD Surveillance Unit, said people would be wrong to jump to conclusions. "It is very concerning," Dr Collinge, an expert on the molecular biology of the disease, said. "There is no way of determining whether these two cases have any direct connection with BSE."

Dr Will said: "It is obviously a very unusual occurrence in Britain but it is important to put it in context. We have to try to decide if it is simply the result of more intensive surveillance, or evidence of a

common causative agent." The Department of Health said it was following the advice of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee that no conclusions could be drawn from the two cases. "We don't think there is anything sinister about it at all," a spokesman said.

Dr Will, who with Dr Collinge was attending a scientific symposium in Germany yesterday, said the scientific literature contained only four cases of CJD in teenagers. But three cases had been found in patients aged 19, 23 and 27 in Warsaw over a period of only a few years.

"These cases were found when the Polish authorities were monitoring a quite different brain disease," he said. "If you set out to monitor rare diseases, you will identify all sorts of oddities, but it's impossible to be sure there's a common cause."

Neither of the two British

teenagers had either of the recognised risk factors for CJD — inherited genetic mutations or injections of infected human growth hormone.

Stephen had visited his aunt's farm annually for eight years and would have been exposed to cows and drunk unpasteurised milk. But no cases of BSE had been reported in the herd. The girl had occasionally eaten corned beef and beefburgers, and in about 1989 had eaten cow's brain in Cyprus, but no cases of BSE have been reported there.

Professor Richard Lacey of Leeds University, a leading critic of government policy over BSE, said that a third teenager, Vicky Rimmer, 17, of Cornah's Quay, Clwyd, was also suffering from CJD. "If three cases among teenagers are confirmed, it is pushing coincidence to think they are random," he said. "If the cause is not infected cattle, what is it?"

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Nancy Sinatra's frank confessions

The booze, the women, the spending — and the inimitable



voice. That is the legend. But who is the man behind it? Frank Sinatra's favourite daughter, Nancy, tells all... Only in *The Sunday Times Magazine*, tomorrow

Q: What is Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease?
A: A brain disease, generally occurring between the ages of 40 and 65, developing rapidly, causing dementia and death, often within a year.

Q: How many people die?
A: About one a week in Britain. Last year the toll reached 55, a record.

Q: Is it increasing?
A: Not necessarily. Although the 1994 total was the highest ever, the actual numbers remain small. Increased surveillance may account for the increase.

Q: Can it be treated?
A: There is no treatment for the disease, which is invariably fatal. It can be diagnosed for certain only after death, from changes in the brain.

Q: What is the link to "mad cow" disease?
A: Three diseases — CJD, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or mad cow disease) and scrapie, in sheep, show similar brain changes.

All three are prion diseases, believed to be caused by an abnormal protein — the prion protein — which spreads in the brains of victims.

Q: Is it infectious?
A: Prion diseases can be transmitted by injecting material from infected animals or people; this is how children given human growth hormone collected from cadavers acquired the disease.

Q: Can it be transmitted in food?
A: This is the big question. Cows caught BSE by eating feed contaminated by scrapie from sheep; so between those two species, the answer is yes. But humans do not appear to catch CJD by eating lamb or mutton from scrapie-infected sheep. The unanswered question is whether BSE in cows can be transmitted to humans by eating beef.

Q: Why don't we know?
A: BSE in cows first appeared in 1986. It seems beyond doubt that many people will have eaten beef from infected cows slaughtered before their condition became obvious. But the incubation period for infection, if it occurs, could be anything between 5 and 30 years. So only time and the close monitoring of cases will prove it one way or the other.

Q: What does evidence show?
A: Nothing conclusive. There is an apparent statistical association between beef-eating and CJD but it is weak. And countries where there is no BSE have levels of CJD that are as high or higher than those in Britain.

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8 HOME NEWS

Steel's son jailed for growing cannabis

THE eldest son of Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, was jailed for nine months yesterday for growing cannabis plants with a street value of £30,000 at his home.

At the High Court in Edinburgh, the judge, Lord Cameron, told Graeme Steel, 29, that he would be failing in his duty if he did not jail him. He said: "The court has on previous occasions made it quite clear the attitude the court will take to those who deliberately break the law."

Steel had admitted at an earlier hearing to growing cannabis at his home in the Scottish Borders between April 1993 and last October. The court had been told that police found 40 plants under plastic. They also found four pipes for smoking cannabis and booklets on how to grow it.

Steel said they were for his own use. He claimed that he could not buy the drug on the street because it would reflect badly on his father, Derek Ogg, counsel for Steel, had also told the court the cannabis was worth up to £4,800, not £30,000 as the Crown claimed.



Graeme Steel being led away from the High Court at Edinburgh yesterday

Children's minds 'must be won away from TV'

Labour sets out homework quota for seven-year-olds

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would expect seven-year-olds to spend half an hour a night on homework and cut down on time spent watching television. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said he wanted parents and schools to work together to win children's minds away from the screen.

He said primary school children spent an hour a week on homework compared with two and a half hours every night watching television. Pupils in Japan and many European countries spend 50 per cent longer on work at home than British schoolchildren.

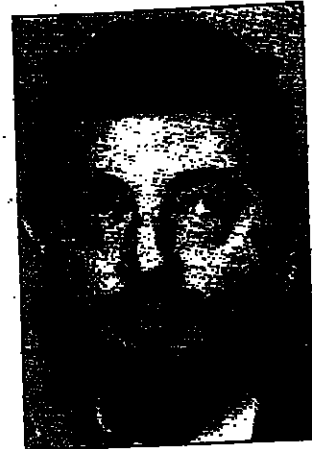
Labour would also set a daily minimum for secondary school pupils of 90 minutes homework a night, bringing British pupils in line with their peers in Europe and the Pacific Rim. Mr Blunkett said research from America suggested increasing homework could achieve a threefold increase in children's academic

achievement. He said: "We have become a voyeur society where children don't read or converse or even use their imagination ... No wonder the CBI thinks we have become a nation of non-communicators and Mrs Shephard thinks we have teenagers who learn to grunt."

The plan is Mr Blunkett's response to the campaign by Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary, to wage war on "grunTERS" by appointing a committee of media personalities, chaired by Trevor McDonald, to revive interest in the English language.

Mr Blunkett told the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' annual education conference in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, that homework was seen as a chore. He said: "Homework is not a punishment. It is an opportunity for the individual to learn beyond the limits of the classroom."

Mr Blunkett's homework



Blunkett believes pupils see homework as chore

quotas go against findings by school inspectors, who in June said the most effective primary school homework policies involved a gradual build-up in the amount of work. *Homework in Primary and Secondary Schools*, a report from Ofsted, the schools watchdog, found ten minutes a night was being spent by five to seven-

year-olds and between one and four hours a week by seven to eleven-year-olds. A spokesman for the Department of Education and Employment said: "The amount of homework and its frequency is a matter for individual schools and teachers to decide."

Primary schools said half an hour's homework sounded reasonable but would not like to see a fixed amount of work required every night. Chris Davis, chairman of the National Association for Primary Education, said: "Children do need time to switch off as well but most of us agree they spend far too much time in front of the television."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT), said: "Homework is best left to schools, teachers and parents to decide in the light of their own circumstances."

Leading article, page 21

Pupils eager for good grades keep work ethic alive

By DAVID CHARTER

HOMEWORK is enjoying a renaissance, with evidence from school inspectors that children enjoy and benefit from extra study. The Office for Standards in Education said in a report in June that a growing number of children were doing more hours than teachers required because they wanted good grades.

The Manningtree School, Essex, is considering changing the name of homework to "extension work" in an attempt to stop it being seen as a chore or punishment. The school has introduced a recorded telephone message, praised by the Shadow Education Secretary yesterday, which pupils can ring for a reminder of tasks.

Anthony Rivett, Manningtree's deputy head, said: "Children enjoy extension work if it is purposeful."

Manningtree pupils felt Mr Blunkett's call for a set minimum of homework each night was inflexible. John Knights, 15, who spends up to three hours a night on homework, said: "In your first year you do less but as you get older you are doing more revising and work off your own bat."

Chris Perkins, 15, said: "If you get sick of homework you don't put so much effort in."

Primary schools rarely talk of "homework" for fear of putting children off. Pupils are more likely to be set long-term projects for homework which they can do at their own speed.

Queniborough Primary School, in Leicestershire, sends parents a detailed outline of all the term's topics so they can plan family activities, such as trips and television viewing, with lessons in mind. Geoff Rudkin, a parent at Queniborough, said: "Kids are not very good at sharing what they do at school so when you have got an idea what topic they are doing, you can talk effectively with them about it."

Parents are scared of attending parent evenings at school because they think that teachers will pass judgment on them instead of their offspring. Meetings are often ineffective because teachers expect questions but many parents are too intimidated to speak up, according to research by the University of East Anglia.

Barbara Walker, a research associate at the university, said: "Such feelings of unease appear to be universal, regardless of parents' class or educational attainment."



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Debate over rise of Synod liberals rages on Internet

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ANGLICANS have logged on to the Internet to begin an international debate about the triumph of the Church's liberal wing in the General Synod elections.

Bishops and clergy in the worldwide Anglican Communion are also using the Internet to debate the relevance of labels such as liberal, evangelical and Catholic.

The debate, in a discussion forum called Anglicans Online, comes as the churches prepare for the first national conference on Christian ministry and the Internet next month.

The churches and other religious groups have been among the first to realise the potential of the world wide web for debate and discussion. Christian software enthusiasts are also leading the field in developing programmes that allow adults to prevent children gaining access to material such as pornography and violence on the Internet.

Roger Steer, a Christian and author from Devon, placed a report of the *Times* article on the synod elections on the Internet and has already received responses. Referring to the identification of synod candidates as Catholic, liberal or evangelical, he said: "I should be interested to know how many of the active Angli-

cans on this list happily attach one of these labels to themselves."

He asked more than 700 clergy on the Internet whether these labels were meaningful, necessary and useful and whether they preferred to think of themselves as Christian or Anglican.

Anglicans Online has two main lists, Anglican and Episcopal. The former is for discussion and the latter to disseminate information, including a daily office, biographies of saints and press releases from the Anglican Communion news service in London.

Many dioceses, parishes and clergy are also linked up to the Internet. At the conference Superhighway '95 The Internet for Christians, in Northampton on November 9, clergy and laity will be advised how best to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the net.

Roger Steer's Internet address is:

comers@rogsteer.zynet.co.uk
The 175-year-old Church of England Newspaper will be on the Internet by the end of next week (<http://www.c-of-e-news.co.uk/news>). Alan Walsh, publisher, said the newspaper wanted to balance the presence on the net of "well-publicised evils, such as pornography".



Dr David Hope, the Archbishop of York, at Bishopthorpe Palace after being knighted yesterday for his services as Bishop of London. Report, page 1

The future lies in our hands, not in the stars



Jonathan Romain

Those who console themselves next week that Halloween is a necessary tribulation which is an annual sop to the superstitious should think again. The fascination with the world of spirits and the workings of fate that lie behind it continues all year round.

Moreover, the legacy of ancient legends and fears forms a cultural backdrop that encompasses a wide circle, including many who might think themselves as too rational, or too religious, to believe in them, yet who are still influenced by them.

A black cat crossing one's path usually attracts comment, even by those who do not consider them to be witches' agents; the occurrence of a Friday on the thirteenth of the month causes raised eyebrows among people who have no idea of its connection with the myth of Balladur.

Many of us will say "bless you" when we hear someone sneeze, but never when they cough, blissfully unaware that it was a way of preventing a sneezing person being carried off to the underworld and has nothing to do with them catching a cold.

The survival of such superstitions reflects is no accident. Today we may be more sophisticated than previous generations, but we share many of the same

fears. We are nervous about how transient success can be, and how little we control our lives.

We know that so many things can go wrong with our business, health, children or marriage. We are desperate to protect the present and to guard against whatever the future may throw at us.

Hence the millions of people who consult their horoscopes with a hunger to know what is in store for them and how they should react.

Yet astrology contradicts the insistence of Judaism, along with Christianity and Islam, on free will and the

choices that everyone is able to make in the course of life. It is irresponsible to surrender responsibility to one's star sign.

What is important is not where Saturn and Capricorn stood at the time of our birth but how we behave now, and the decisions we freely take.

Rather than act according to charts that tell us to be adventurous today, or wary of bad advice from friends, or to avoid sharing secrets, we should greet everyone openly, decide for ourselves how to react and let our starting points be generosity and optimism.

As for the long-term results, we cannot guarantee health and prosperity but we can ensure the quality of our values and relationships by the way we lead our lives. There are the friendships we establish and which can prove so enriching if we keep them up properly.

There is the way we touch the lives of other people every day. Especially important is the time we spend with young children, helping to develop their abilities and perceptions. We can take others by surprise at what we are capable of, and surprise ourselves too.

Jonathan Romain is rabbi of the Maidenhead Reform Synagogue.

At Your Service, Weekend page 3

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Gummer calls for 'heartfelt' preaching

By RUTH GLEDHILL

PREACHERS should speak "to the heart", John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said last night. Mr Gummer, one of seven judges in the *7th Times* College of Preachers competition to find the Preacher of the Year, said preaching was increasingly important to the ministry of the Church. "The sermon should be expounding the Gospel or the scriptures in a way which is relevant to the lives of the

people to whom the preacher is preaching." Quoting John Henry Newman, leader of the Oxford Movement in the last century and, like Mr Gummer, a convert from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism, he said: "The preacher must speak heart to heart."

Another of the judges, Sir Ludovic Kennedy, the broadcaster and well-known atheist, said he would assess the sermons on "whether what the person is saying is true, and are they telling it in such a way

that I am convinced". The finalists will preach on the Beatitudes from Christ's Sermon on the Mount, the Gospel text for next Wednesday, which is All Saints' Day. They are Dr Alison Fry from Corsham, Wilts; Dr Edmund Marshall of Wakefield, Yorkshire; the Rev Barry Overend of Leeds; Gill Dacombe of Stockport, Cheshire; Dr Richard Major of Truro, Cornwall; and Canon Jeremy Davies of Salisbury.

The winner will receive

£1000 and a sculpture of a dove, representing the Holy Spirit, by Rosalind Stracey, of Chelsea. Runners up will receive £200. The 30 shortlisted sermons will be published in *The Times* Book of Best Sermons, to be launched at the final at St Pancras Church opposite Kings Cross Station, north London, at 2pm on Wednesday. Admission is free and open to all.

Reader offer, Weekend page 14

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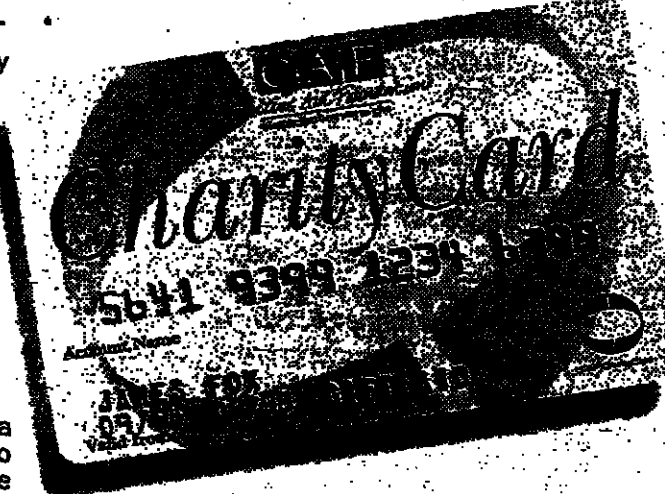
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FRIDAY OCTOBER 28 1995

ies in our
the stars

choices that everyone is able to make in the course of life. It is irresponsible to consider responsibility to one's star sign.

What is important is not where Saturn and Capricorn stood at the time of one's birth but how we behave, our attitudes and the decisions we freely take.

Rather than act according to charts that tell us to be adventurous today, or to follow bad advice from friends, we should greet every day as a new opportunity to decide for ourselves how to react and to let our starting points be peace and optimism.

As for the long-term future, we cannot guarantee health and prosperity but can ensure the quality of our values and relationships in the way we lead our lives. There are the friendships we establish and which we keep on enriching. It is these that truly matter.

There is the way we treat the lives of other people every day. I specially implore you in the time we get our young children to help to develop their abilities and perceptions. We as adults have to ensure that we are capable of surprising ourselves too.

Jonathan Noma is author of the Maidenhead Road magazine.

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Backlash begins as Powell is accused of selling out Republican revolution

FROM IAN BRIDIE
IN WASHINGTON

COLIN POWELL has not yet climbed into the American presidential ring, but conservatives on the far Right of the Republican Party are attacking him furiously for even thinking of joining the contest.

They are angry because General Powell is pro-choice on abortion, in

favour of gun controls, against official prayer in schools and a supporter of programmes that give favourable treatment to his fellow blacks. Citing these markedly non-conservative stances, the stop-Powell critics complain that he would "sell out" the Republican revolution. One of them called him "Bill Clinton with medal ribbons".

Ignoring their swipes at him, the retired Chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff continued at his home in the Washington suburbs yesterday his meticulous deliberations into whether to seek the Republican nomination to run against President Clinton.

His book tour over, the general has edged closer to making a decision in the past few days. He has talked to two leading conservatives who are on his side, Jack Kemp, a former Housing Secre-

tary, and William Bennett, a former Education Secretary and drug "war". Their apparent encouragement has further enraged the far Right.

He has also telephoned Ronald Lauder, son of Estée Lauder of cosmetics fame, to ask about the all-important issue of campaign funding. Mr Lauder, an important Republican money raiser, has known and liked General Powell

since the Reagan days when he was an assistant Secretary of Defence. He warned the general that the longer he waits, the more difficult fundraising will be. An estimated \$6 million to \$8 million (£3.8 million to £5 million) will be needed for the primary season that begins in January. At least \$1 million is necessary as up-front "seed money" to set up campaign headquarters and fund-raising apparatus.

General Powell continues to worry about the impact of campaigning on his family. His wife, Alma, believes that it would be dangerous for him to run because he would become a target for "crazy people". Still, all the signs are that he is on the verge of having a go and that he will make his intentions explicit some time between November 11, the day America honours its armed forces veterans;

and the start of the Thanksgiving long weekend on November 23. In the meantime, uncertainty over his candidature has paralysed the campaigns and fund-raising efforts of the ten Republicans who have already declared. Some of them have been preparing for years for their fling at the White House, but "Waiting for Colin" has taken over as Washington's autumn obsession.

Weeping Korean ex-leader admits £400m slush fund

By PEREGRINE HODSON

ROH TAE WOO, the former President of South Korea, yesterday revealed that he had secretly amassed 500 billion won (about £400 million) during his five-year rule.

He said that the "governing fund" was used to pay for the activities of political parties. He also admitted that he retained about 170 billion won for his personal use after he left office in 1993.

"I now feel limitlessly shameful for being a former President," he said on television.

In an apparent attempt to deflect public outrage, Mr Roh added that some of the funds had been spent on payments for public servants and "taking care of needy people". The former President admitted that he was clearly at fault. "The remaining fund should have been returned to the state at the close of my presidential term, but I couldn't at that time, due to various situations," he did not elaborate.

To minimise the damage to



Roh: wipes away a tear on television yesterday

his ally, President Kim Young Sam, who will lead the ruling Democratic Liberal Party into an election next April, Mr Roh made a humiliating apology. "I feel absolutely ashamed. I will take full responsibility and I am ready to accept any punishment. This may sound like an excuse, but such political funds, though wrong, have long been our political

practice," he said, adding that the money came from business donations.

About 200 students marched on Mr Roh's home in Seoul but were scattered by police firing teargas. The opposition Democratic Party demanded his arrest.

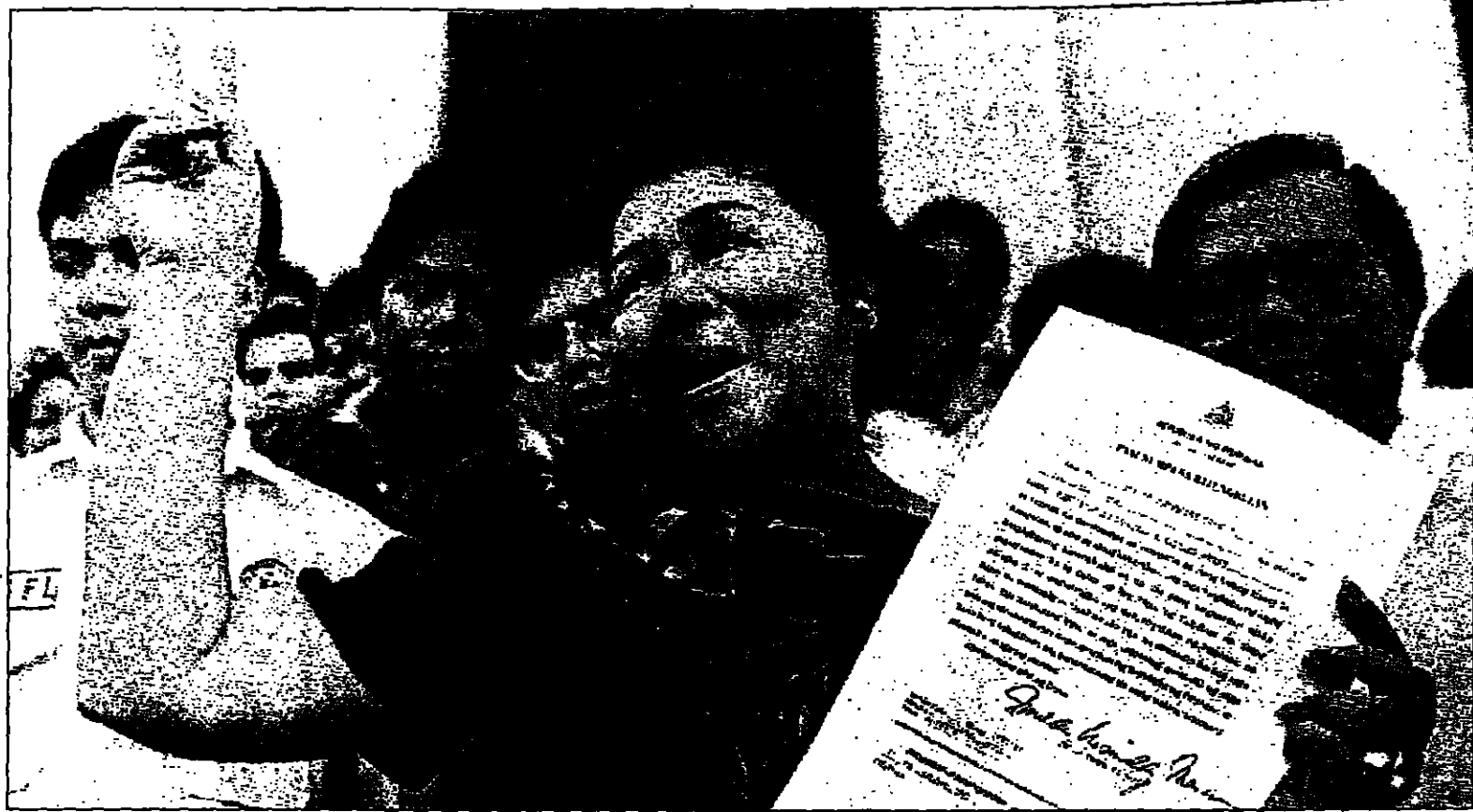
Mr Roh was the last in a line of military-backed presidents who worked with big business in an often sleazy alliance that powered South Korea's economic development.

Mr Kim came to office by appealing to the electorate as a "clean politician", who refused to accept funding from businesses. He has initiated reforms to distance himself from earlier military-backed governments, and now he has staked his political life on a thorough investigation of the scandal.

Mr Roh's unprecedented public confession follows a series of allegations by the opposition over the past week that he had collected secret slush funds to buy votes.

The revelations have incensed South Koreans, who are disenchanted with Mr Kim. Many believe he will try to protect Mr Roh who they suspect helped to fund his successor's election victory.

The scandal took a further twist yesterday when Kim Dae Jung, the foremost opposition leader, admitted receiving two billion won from Mr Roh during the 1992 presidential campaign. He also claimed to have evidence that Mr Roh gave the President several hundred billion won during the 1992 campaign.



Imelda Marcos, the former First Lady of the Philippines, flashes a victory sign yesterday as she waves the document confirming her as a member of the House of Representatives. She was sworn in at the Supreme Court, putting the official seal on a comeback just short of a decade after she had fled the country in disgrace. "I will support and protect the constitution of the Philippines,"

Marcos sworn into parliament

pledged Mrs Marcos, whose name has become synonymous with massive official corruption. Mrs Marcos, 66, who fled with her husband Ferdinand to Hawaii after he was overthrown as President in a popular revolt in 1986, also promised to abide by the country's laws. She still

faces an 18-year jail term imposed when she was convicted on corruption charges arising from her husband's 20 years in power, nine of which the country spent under martial law. She is appealing against the sentence, and would automatically forfeit her seat if the appeal is turned

down. Several congressmen, including some who suffered detention under martial law, have said they would boycott the chamber on the day Mrs Marcos takes up her seat. Mrs Marcos had an answer for them: "Everybody has the freedom to do what he wants to do. I will always respect them whatever they want to do. My only obsession is to help the people." (Reuters)

Disney launches film made by child molester

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

DESPITE a storm of protest over revelations that its director is a convicted child molester, the Walt Disney Company last night went ahead with the launch of *Powder*, its new film. Last Tuesday night an advance screening of the film, the story of a troubled teen-

ager with unnaturally white skin, was picketed by friends and family of Nathan Winters, who was molested by Victor Silva, the writer and director. Mr Silva was convicted of the crime in 1987.



Mr Winters, now 20, attended the protest, accusing Disney of lining the pockets of a child rapist and urging passers-by not to spend their

money on the film. He was a 12-year-old child actor when he was twice forced to have oral sex with Mr Silva, who videotaped both incidents.

Executives at Disney have been quick to defend their decision not to sack Mr Silva. They learnt of his criminal record halfway through filming. "He paid his debt to society," Roger Birnbaum,

head of Disney's Caravan Pictures, said. The director in fact served 15 months of a three-year jail sentence. He left Tuesday's screening by a back entrance to avoid the protesters but later issued a statement claiming he had paid for his mistakes and now wanted to continue his career. He will do so with difficulty. One crew member told *Daily*

Variety that Mr Silva was "overly friendly" with children working as extras in *Powder*. More ominously, according to the critic Michael Medved, the film is "wretched... a real turkey". It opened as planned at 1,200 cinemas across America last night, but cinema chains were ready to drop it depending on public reaction to the furor.

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Unesco adviser calls for protection of threatened 20,000-year-old engravings

Expert on Stone Age art demands halt to dam work

By EDWARD OWEN

A FRENCH expert on rock art who advises Unesco said yesterday that work must be halted immediately on a huge dam in Portugal that will swamp the world's largest open-air site of Stone Age engravings.

Dr Jean Clottes had been due to attend a meeting yesterday in Lisbon of international specialists. It had been convened by the Portuguese heritage organisation, Ipaar, and the Ministry of Culture, but the new Socialist Government, elected only four weeks ago, has postponed the gathering until next month. Manuel Maria Carrilho, the Minister

of Culture, will then decide the fate of the 20,000-year-old art gallery.

Construction work is well under way on the dam across the Coa river, a tributary of the Douro near the Spanish border in northern Portugal. The state electricity company, EDP, has spent €19 million so far on the hydro-electric and irrigation scheme.

"It is a political problem," says Dr Clottes, 62, president of the rock art committee of the international committee on monuments and sites, Icomos, a non-governmental body that works closely with Unesco. "No foreigner can tell the

Portuguese Government what to do. But they should know what they are talking about before they take an irrevocable decision.

"My advice is, let us stop the dam. The Portuguese should be given time and money to protect and study the site for eight to ten years. At first, only about 50 engravings were discovered, but now there are probably thousands. It is of world importance, probably the biggest open-air Palaeolithic site in the world. We do not know of any others.

"It is significant because we do not have so many engravings in caves. The engravings must have been transcriptions of myths outside and different rites in the valley," he said.

Dr Clottes complained that in the battle of words and reports between the electricity company and conservationists he had been "completely misrepresented in the Portuguese press. They said that Unesco was all for flooding the engravings. I certainly never, never said that."

He said his initial worry after the first findings by an Ipaar archaeologist last November was that the few engravings then discovered in the deep, remote valley, which includes one of Portugal's finest port vineyards, would be vandalised because of the media coverage. He had asked for a geological study to find out if the engravings would survive under water and said that three years would be needed to explore the site before it was flooded.

He is also deeply suspicious of the methods used by ar-



One of the thousands of 20,000-year-old engravings put at risk by the Portuguese hydro-electric dam project

chaeologists hired by the state electricity company whose findings conveniently slash the age of the engravings (in one report to just a few hundred years), thus favour-

Palaeolithic animals and the engraving techniques; also for what they do not depict — no snakes, birds, fish, never the moon, the sun, the stars or people.

that Antonio Guterres, the Prime Minister, had still not made any decisions but is worried about the present drought. She would like to see the engravings preserved. Even more have appeared since the water level subsided recently.

The town of Vila Nova de Foz Coa, near the dam, is having second thoughts about its potential tourist site, however. "We are suffering from a lack of water and people say that is more important than anything else," says Artur Martins, the local English teacher, who wants to save the engravings.

Campaign funds have been raised by selling "Palaeolithic port" and T-shirts.

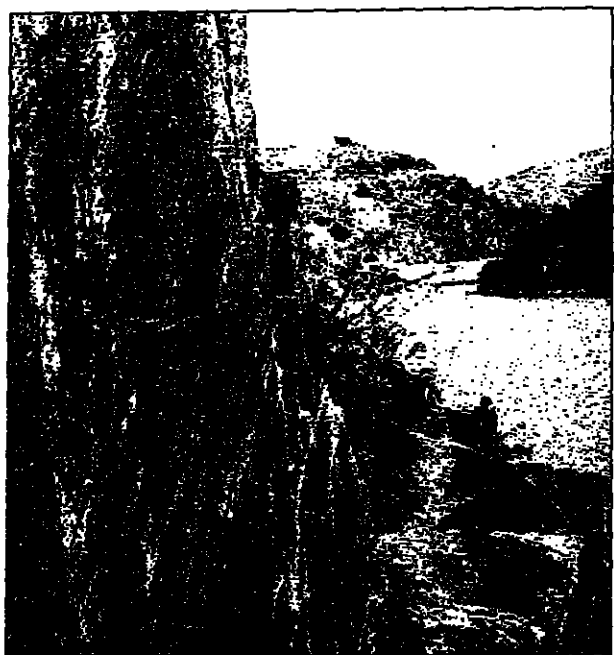
6 The Portuguese should be given time and money to protect and study the site for eight to ten years

ing EDP. "I am 99 per cent sure they are Upper Palaeolithic, very roughly 20,000 years old, probably Solutrean (a Stone Age culture). All the details point to this error: the scenes of now extinct

"Today's meeting was delayed because of the political situation," Marina Pignatelli, an anthropologist who is personal assistant to Nuno Santos Pinheiro, president of Ipaar, said yesterday. She said



Clottes' decision is of world importance



Another of the threatened rock engravings, with the new hydro-electric project in the background

Prince's attacker wanted

Wellington: The man who lunged at the Prince of Wales with an aerosol can in Auckland last year could be jailed for the duration of the Queen's New Zealand visit, provided that the police can find him (Michael Munro writes).

Sam Bracanov, a veteran anti-royalist of Croatian descent, yesterday failed to appear at an Auckland court to sign a promise of good behaviour and a warrant for his arrest was issued.

Mr Bracanov, 59, had been quoted as saying that all royalty were parasites and should be shot, and he had also allegedly said that he had access to guns. The Queen's visit starts on Monday.

Chernobyl plant shuts reactor

Kiev: One of two working reactors at the Chernobyl nuclear power station was shut down because of defects inside a refuelling system, the director of the station, site of the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986, said. "Problems were discovered inside the system for loading fresh fuel into reactor number one, Sergei Parashin said. "There was no release of radiation. There is nothing serious about this." (Reuters)

Editor punished for Grachev slur

Moscow: A Moscow court sentenced Vadim Poegit, the editor of *Moskovsky Komсомолец*, Moscow's most popular daily, to a year's corrective labour for saying that Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, diverted army funds to buy himself Mercedes-Benz cars. Although eligible for an amnesty, Mr Poegit intends to appeal against his sentence. (AP)

Numbers revised for black march

Boston: Estimates of the number who took part in the Million Man March, black rally in Washington have been revised down from the two million the organisers claimed to 837,000 on photographic evidence. With a margin of error of 20 per cent, the numbers could range from 670,000 to 1,004,000. (AP)

Pole position

Helsinki, Greenland: Professional Santas are competing for the Santa of the Year award, including sleigh driving and "ho-ho-hoing", with £64,000 for contributing to the most to child welfare. (Reuters)

Italian dinosaurs re-emerge after Dini's narrow victory



Di Pietro: crusader who has an eye on politics

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN ROME

ITALIAN MPs this week staged a traditional pantomime in what is supposed to be a reformed political system: a tottering government escaped being voted out of office by a hair's breadth. The country's 54th postwar Government almost gave way to the 55th.

Regular cliff-hanger votes are supposed to be a thing of the past. Four years ago the country famous for revolving-door governments began purging its political class: the elderly and corrupt dinosaurs who held office irrespective of election results were thrown

out. The all-powerful Christian Democratic party collapsed into small splinter groups. Communists became almost extinct. Election law was reshaped to resemble the Anglo-Saxon first-past-the-post system.

Yet on Thursday the Chamber of Deputies here swarmed with MPs absorbed by the hugely enjoyable and age-old pursuit of watching a fragile coalition fight for its life by making a last-minute deal to buy the votes of a minor party. A packed and chattering chamber watched the thin, bony figure of Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister, offer to resign at the end of the year. This concession secured the

support of the "Reconstructed Communists" and allowed Signor Dini's Government to escape a censure vote called by Silvio Berlusconi, the right-wing leader.

Signor Berlusconi, cheated of his prey, could only look on from the steep wooden benches and scowl murderously. "I behave like Snow White in a world where there are no fairy tale endings," he grumbled later. The television tycoon is climbing a steep learning curve in politics; he governed for eight months after a barnstorming election victory but fell from power when his coalition unravelled at the end of last year. Since then Signor Berlusconi has compounded

the damage by losing two confidence votes against Signor Dini.

Italy's political revolution has stalled, half-finished. The new election law still leaves small parties with the power to make or break coalitions. A new political class has not yet emerged.

The old guard of Italian politics is making a spirited comeback. Away from the chaotic crowd scenes in the Chamber of Deputies, a handful of men is competing to complete the changes which began when magistrates in Milan began investigating the dirty money which fuelled the postwar political system.

Three of these players be-

long to the older generation who escaped the censure which has retired or jailed many of their contemporaries. President Scalfaro is busy trying to delay a general election to give time for a centre party to emerge. Some pundits hint that Francesco Cossiga, the former President, might spring back into the limelight. Signor Dini, the youngest of this trio at 64, entered government as a technocratic ex-banker but is gently building up his personality cult. He is mentioned as a possible leader of both Centre-Left and Centre-Right.

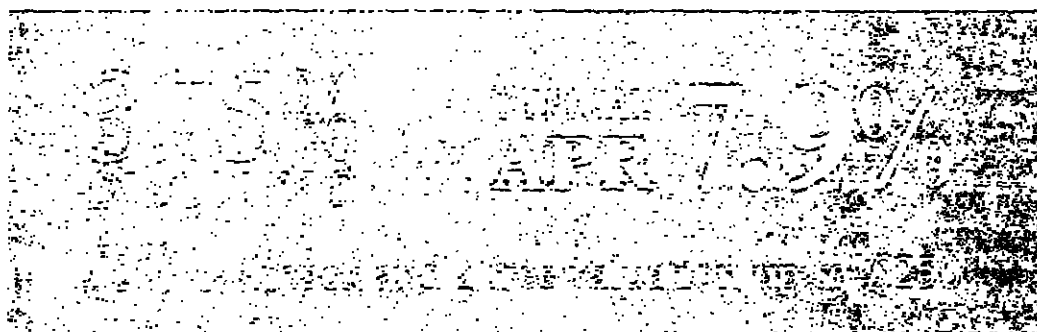
At least 12 months of intrigue, intrigue and a falling lira can be expected before one

party or personality gains an upper hand. Signor Berlusconi is due to go on trial for company tax evasion in January and he may be forced out of politics. Signor Berlusconi's eclipse would be good news for two younger challengers: Gianfranco Fini, of the Alleanza Nazionale and Antonio Di Pietro, the crusading magistrate who has served notice that he is moving into politics.

So fluid are the current combinations of people and parties that Signor Di Pietro is suggested as a future Prime Minister of governments of both Right and Left. Italian politics is still searching for the holy grail of stability.

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BARCLAYS

Doctors put Yeltsin out of action for five weeks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

KREMLIN doctors yesterday ordered that President Yeltsin remain under tight medical supervision until the end of November, effectively turning the Russian leader into an absentee head of state.

In a move which will leave a power vacuum at the apex of Russian politics, the President's doctors ruled out any possibility that the Kremlin leader will play an active role in domestic politics or in foreign affairs for the best part of five weeks.

"The doctors came to the conclusion that the President will have to stay under their close supervision during October and November," said Sergei Medvedev, the presidential spokesman, adding that President Yeltsin was suffering from an "unstable blood supply to the heart".

The decision appeared to suggest that the Russian leader's heart condition is more serious than his aides initially admitted, and that he will be confined to hospital or to a sanatorium outside Moscow to recuperate.

The cost to the Kremlin's prestige at a critical time in Russian politics will be heavy. First, Russia has had to postpone a historic Moscow summit scheduled for next Tuesday between the Bosnian, Croatian and Serb leaders.

President Yeltsin has also had to cancel a crucial visit to China later next month, and put off a visit to Norway, which was originally postponed in June after his first bout of heart trouble put him in hospital.

More importantly for Russia, the Kremlin leader will be out of action as campaigning gets under way for December parliamentary elections, when his hardline nationalist and Communist opponents are expected to sweep to victory.

In spite of his poor prospects, President Yeltsin's advisers and ministers rallied round him. Mr Medvedev insisted that at no time during the latest heart problem had

the Kremlin leader lost consciousness and added that the President was still in control of the country and "the nuclear button". He warned those who might try to take advantage of President Yeltsin's absence that the Kremlin leader would use his "boxer's instincts" to fight back.

General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, who is currently visiting America, said that he had been told President Yeltsin was already feeling much better.

"My sources are my aides in Moscow who have communicated this to me by telephone — his health is much better, there is no cause for alarm," said General Grachev, one of the Kremlin leader's most loyal supporters in government.

Even Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, who has a constitutional duty to take over as head of state if the President is unable to fulfil his duties, tried to ease the public's fears, saying: "He is fine, he is fine."

The soothing rhetoric and apparent openness of the Kremlin may not convince the people of Russia, however, given that their leader has not been seen in public since Monday. President Yeltsin, 64, is said to be receiving only his doctors, close relatives and his most trusted bodyguards at a special wing of the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow.

Most of President Yeltsin's main opponents in parliament refrained from commenting on the impact of his absence, but privately pundits believe it is bound to influence adversely the election prospects of his centrist and reformist allies.

Viktor Iyukhin, a Communist member of the Duma, the lower house of parliament, did not hide his view that President Yeltsin has become a lame-duck leader. He wants to revive a Bill that would establish an independent medical body which would rule whether the leader was fit to govern.

Leading article, page 21

US spies get blamed

Moscow: Boris Yeltsin's latest illness is the work of "foreign special services", according to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Russia's ultra-nationalist. Seeing a link between the President's recent trip to America where he had a meeting with Bill Clinton, Mr Zhirinovskiy told reporters here: "Clinton needs

a victory in the next election and, if Yeltsin stays President of Russia, Clinton will lose the election."

He added: "This is the dirty world of politics when people are killed so that another man at the other side of the world could again become a President." (Reuters)



A pensive Chernomyrdin listens during a meeting in Moscow yesterday

Promises of a prophet in waiting win few converts

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN CHERNY OTROG

WHEN Viktor Chernomyrdin made a flying visit to his native village last month, he was given a hero's welcome. The Russian Prime Minister inspected the building work he had ordered, saw a few old friends and left early the next morning.

But Mr Chernomyrdin, the builder and manager, has still not made the full transition to politician. He was also in the area to promote his new party, Our Home Is Russia, before next month's elections. Even on home territory, though, the omens for him are not so good.

"I had not heard," said Natalya Nikulina, an 86-year-old woman in a headscarf and a cardigan down to her knees, when asked about the new party. She was first cousin to Mr Chernomyrdin's father, Stepan. "Is it capitalism or communism?" inquired Mrs Nikulina's neighbour, Pelagya Ustinova, picking her way down the muddy village street. Told that Mr Chernomyrdin's party was promising capitalism, she said she was not interested.

Our Home Is Russia was formed in the spring to seize

the centre-ground of Russian politics and shore up Mr Chernomyrdin's Government. Now it has another objective — to be the launch pad for a Chernomyrdin bid for the presidency next June. So far, however, Our Home Is Russia has failed to establish grassroots support in the provinces. In the conservative countryside it faces formidable opposition from the two established left-wing movements, the Communist and Agrarian parties.

When Mr Chernomyrdin was born in Cherny Otrug 57 years ago, there were no decent roads, no running water and little contact with the outside world. Mrs Nikulina remembered how her young cousin ran around the streets and played the accordion. He left as soon as he could to work as a fitter in a local gas refinery.

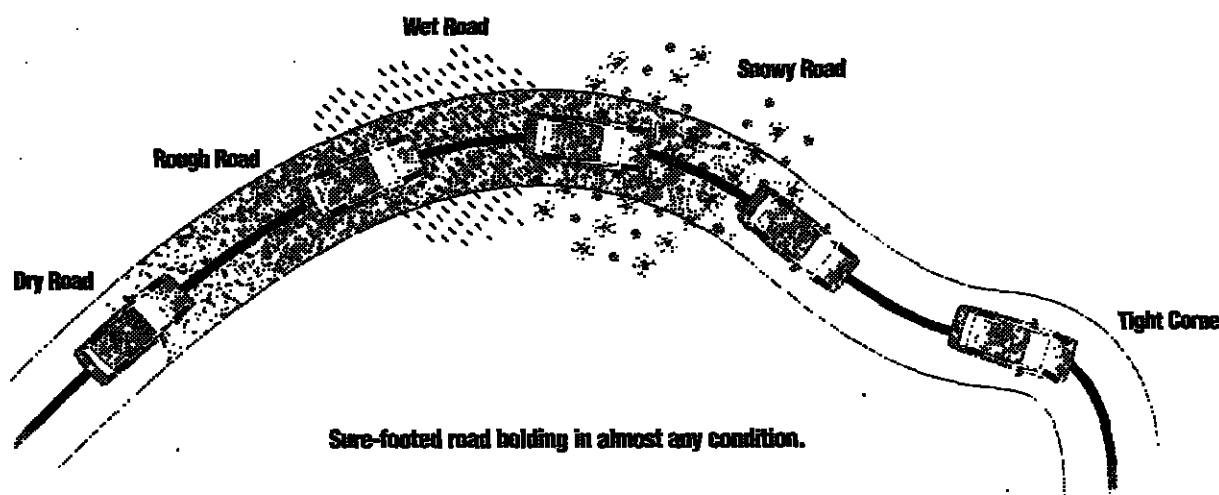
Now, in a long-established Russian tradition, the leader's place of birth is booming with wealth. An improbable four-storey white-brick chalet, complete with sauna and swimming pool, is rising. It would not be out of place in a Moscow suburb. One of the

workers said the building was for Mr Chernomyrdin's nephew. Across the village street, a crane is piling red bricks on an imposing new church.

In the regional capital of Orenburg, 40 miles to the west, they remember Mr Chernomyrdin as an energetic industrialist who managed the local gas plant and used the profits to build a two-square-mile stretch of the city from scratch. In his spare time, he hunted in the surrounding flatlands for geese, birds and elk. He was seen as an effective manager, a man of few words but powerful deeds.

Gennadi Donkovtsev, Mayor of Orenburg and former Communist Party boss, has known Mr Chernomyrdin since 1976. He said he was not surprised he had risen to be Prime Minister. But he added that Our Home Is Russia, a party conceived in the Kremlin and forced on the Prime Minister, was more of a trap than an asset. "Today Our Home Is Russia is at a peak and everyone is applauding, but the moment it stumbles there will be a mass flight from it," he said.

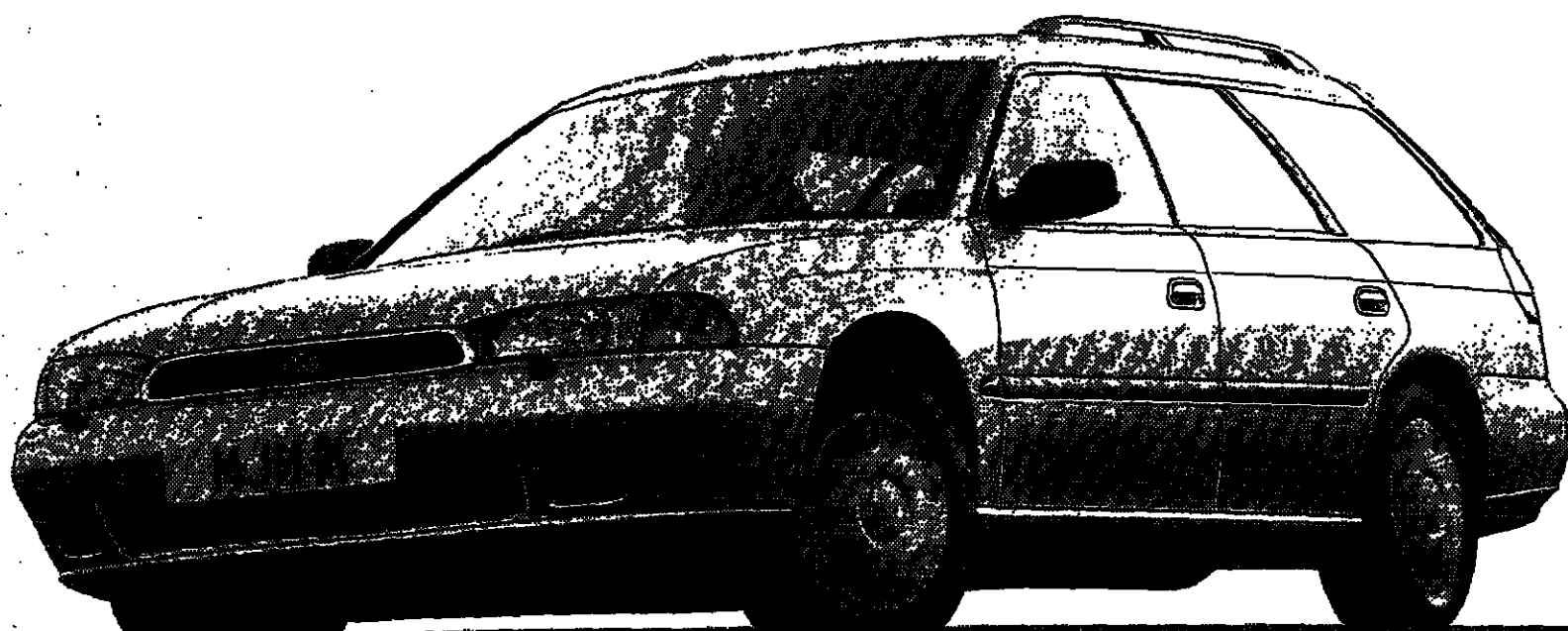
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Newspaper tries to force Mimi Papandreou into renouncing drive for seat in parliament

Publisher held for nude photos of Premier's wife

A GREEK newspaper publisher was arrested yesterday after the publication of a picture apparently showing the wife of Andreas Papandreou, the Socialist Prime Minister, in an intimate naked beach scene with another woman.

A state prosecutor ordered the arrest of the publishers of the *Avriani* and *Onoma* newspapers for "unprovoked insult" over the alleged picture of Dimitris Papandreou, 40, universally known as Mimi. Police later arrested Makis Psomiadis, the publisher of *Onoma*, and said that he would be taken to court to be tried immediately.

George Kouris, the publisher of *Avriani*, carried out his threat to publish what he believes is the most damaging picture ever seen of Mrs Papandreou. Under the headline "She governs us", the front page of *Avriani* was

ATHENS FILE
by MALCOLM BRABANT



devoted to a full frontal nude shot of Mrs Papandreou, reclining on a rock, and apparently doing little to resist a lesbian advance from a topless woman.

Beneath it the newspaper said: "Wake up unfortunate Andreas... Mimi has destroyed you, and your party, she has humiliated the political life of this land and because of her we have become a laughing stock in the eyes of foreigners."

Athenians normally turn up their noses at the populist offerings of *Avriani*, but newspaper kiosks quickly

sold out of this edition. "This should be in *Penthouse*, not on the front page of a newspaper. Mimi is totally humiliated, this is going to kill Papandreou when he sees it," said a stockbroker.

Staff at the Prime Minister's official residence were also shocked when the paper dropped on their desks. One said: "I'm sure it's a montage, generated by computer," a comment which echoes Mrs Papandreou's views, who has made quite clear that she is not a lesbian.

For the past few weeks she has been steeling herself for

what Mr Kouris has been billing as "Mimi's end". He has been reprinting naked photographs of Mrs Papandreou taken when she was an Olympic Airlines hostess and became the Prime Minister's mistress. She dismisses those pictures as the antics of a young, free, high-spirited young woman who never dreamt of marrying the Prime Minister.

Avriani says it was forced to publish yesterday's compromising picture because Mrs Papandreou had ordered the arrest of Mr Kouris for the non-payment of staff contributions to the National Insurance Fund. Mr Kouris says he will publish more damaging photographs and "some terrible documents" unless she resigns as director of the Prime Minister's private office and renounces her ambition to become a politician.

Mrs Papandreou intends to weather the *Avriani* storm, but it could set back her hopes to become a Socialist candidate in the next general election scheduled for 1997. She has already retreated to her "Pink Palace" home after several high profile appearances which seemed to prove that the Greek public is not quite ready for Mimi the politician.

Although many Greeks disapprove of Mr Kouris's tactics



Mimi Papandreou with her husband Andreas, who supports her ambitions

they share his concern that she wields too much influence over her 76-year-old husband, who in recent years has suffered health problems. Despite persistent suggestions that Mr Papandreou can work for only two or three

hours at a stretch, he still controls the party he conceived during the Colonels' dictatorship. Earlier this month he defeated an attempt to oust him.

Whatever the Greeks may think of Mrs Papandreou, she

has had an eight-year master class in the art of using power and influencing the masses. The Prime Minister says he will back her if she wants to stand as an MP. All she has to do is to keep him alive until the next election.

Serbs win aid of top lawyer on war trials

GREECE'S most famous criminal lawyer, Alexander Lykourkos, has offered to represent General Radko Mladic, the Serb military commander, for free.

Although Mr Lykourkos, who describes himself as "an autonomous Greek liberal", denies advising the Serbs to demand a moratorium on war crimes trials for their leadership as part of any settlement, he said: "I think and hope there might be a solution within the peace process."

Of his client, he said: "I think he has been treated very unfairly. I think he is a very honest man and somebody who has really done his duty. Slowly history will evaluate things in a much more impartial way."

He added: "I identify myself with the Serbian struggle. I love them because traditionally we have always been close to them, and geopolitically their struggle is within the interests of Greece."

Mr Lykourkos recently successfully defended the British lorry driver accused of smuggling an Iraqi supergun into Greece, but failed to save the tycoon George Koskotas from jail for embezzling \$200 million from the Bank of Crete.

Another fines day for Athenians

LIKE it or not, Greeks are being forced to change their habits in line with the rest of Europe and spearheading the campaign is Dimitris Avromopoulos, the Conservative Mayor of Athens.

Not content with forcing Athenian drivers out of the historic heart of the city to reduce air pollution, he has now declared war on litterbugs.

Many visitors to Athens are appalled at the

ease with which Greeks drop cigarette packets and other rubbish in the street. Now municipal police are administering fines of £15 and more for such offences. "We are determined to live in a clean and human city," said Avromopoulos.

A recent survey showed that traditionally chauvinistic Greek men are slowly beginning to share chores with their wives. Whatever next? Perhaps they'll soon start paying tax.

Tudjman prospers from harvest of victories

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN ZAGREB

RIDING on a wave of nationalist triumphalism after the successes of the Croatian Army in recapturing Serb-occupied territory, President Tudjman looks certain to strengthen his grip on power in tomorrow's elections.

Even though voters will elect a new parliament, rather than a President, the election is about one man, observers say. Zagreb, like every Croatian city, is plastered with posters of the former wartime Communist partisan officer who sees himself as the father of independent Croatia. Starving out of the posters for his

Croatian Democratic Union, dressed in a snappy blue business suit, his silver hair carefully coiffured, a grinning President Tudjman looks like a sleek Swiss banker who has just clinched a deal.

Firmly schooled in the Communist method of controlling the political agenda, mainly by imposing rigid control on the broadcast media, President Tudjman has built up one of the last remaining cults of personality in Eastern Europe, comparable only to President Milosevic of Serbia.

This is not an election about policies, because in wartime

everyone has the same problems and unites around the nation. This is an election about Franjo Tudjman, which is ironic because the presidential elections are not due for another couple of years. The Union party is far less popular than he is, but there is a cult of personality around him, because when a country is at war the leader becomes the focus. The party is leading in the polls with about 36 per cent support, and the main opposition, the Croatian Social Liberal Party, is trailing at around 20 per cent.

While the election itself is

likely to be free and fair, question-marks remain over the way the election campaign has been organised, according to a report published by the National Democratic Institute, a wing of the Democratic Party in the United States.

The report identifies several areas of concern, in particular the decision to reduce the number of seats guaranteed to the country's Serbian minority from 13 to three and the inclusion of 291,000 Bosnian Croats on the voting list. The report also criticised the role of the state-controlled broadcast media and the limited access

Food chain sells Beetles

Bonn: Shoppers at the Stüssgen supermarket, the local equivalent to Safeways, are being enticed to take advantage of "the economic miracle of the week". Alongside sausages and sauerkraut, the ubiquitous Volkswagen Beetle is on display (writes Michael Kallenbach).

The Rewe food chain has been able to import the old Beetle relatively cheaply from the Volkswagen factory in Mexico. One branch sold its allocation of 150 cars in a day. Priced at DM16,666 (£7,575), sales have been so feverish that they have Volkswagen dealers worried.

French anti-terrorism moves cut crime rate

Paris: The anti-terrorist operation launched in France last month may not have prevented further bomb attacks, but it has had a sobering effect on the country's criminals (Ben Macintyre writes).

Crime rates in Paris have dropped by 10 per cent since the Government began deploying thousands of police and soldiers to guard potential terrorist targets.

With every Métro station patrolled by armed police and soldiers, the number of people attempting to travel without a ticket dropped sharply, while reinforced squads of customs

officials have increased their haul of contraband, weapons and explosives.

More than 32,000 police and troops have been mustered across the country since the operation began on September 7. About two million identity checks have been carried out and 50,000 people have been taken in for questioning by police, according to the Interior Ministry.

Algerian Islamic fundamentalists have claimed responsibility for the wave of terrorist bombings, which began in July, killing six people and injuring 160.

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The vocal genius of Maria Callas is celebrated in a new collection reviewed in Weekend page 10

IN THE ARTS

80 years since it was finished. But permit me one tiny opinion to conclude my Homage to Facts. It is this: the best entry I have ever read in any reference book is one that should never have gone in at all. Look up the entry in *The New Grove* for one Dag Henrik Esmum-Hellerup, "Danish flautist, conductor and composer", born 1803, died 1891. Written by an eminent authority on Scandinavian music. Robert Layton, the entry is surprisingly well-informed about a figure whose "rise to fame in the 1850s was as rapid as his decline into obscurity".

Only when *The New Grove* was well past final-proof stage did Layton reveal his dastardly secret. The entry is a special Esmum-Hellerup, a 19th-century flautist, not a small regional flautist on the Copenhagen-Helsingør line. Doubtless the entry will be ruthlessly purged from the *New NEW! Grove*, but I do hope that somebody slips in another fake gem in its place. If there is one thing I feel more than a good fact, it's a full-blooded Whooper.

Blacker than he was painted

little encouragement to a black raggamuffin, has been added. But to their credit the authors do not make great efforts to conceal the fact that, when Triplett's Ruby Keeler compares him to an old-fashioned tank, she is underrating his push and aggressiveness.

Was that the effect on a poor Jewish immigrant of losing his mother at the age of eight and being rejected by his Rabbi father when he went into showbiz? The show suggests so, but scarcely be said to explore the idea very trenchantly. Part one consists of Jolson doing conventional wisdom by telling a one-man show on Broadway, replacing an obsolete wife with Keeler, and making *The Jazz Singer* in Hollywood. Part two jumps from the early 1930s to the war, shows a fading star reviving his fortunes by singing at the front and taking part in a film biography of himself, and ends with a big farewell performance at Radio City.

It is not all that dramatically arresting, but there are compensations. Triplett is a better singer than Conley, and has the songs, among them *You Made Me Love You and I Only Have Eyes for You*, to prove it. But Conley, although apt to grind a bit when he comes to *Swanee, California Here I Come* or the ghastly *Sonny Boy*, takes command of the stage with his drive, pugnacity and angry restlessness.

He grew on me as the evening proceeded, as Jolson did, but creating an ardent Radio City, or an apartment whose vaguely Egyptianised fake-18th-century furniture would be best described as Louis Farouk, or a shabby Broadway backstage: If this is not always a show for the ears and mind, it is certainly one for the eyes.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



The "charmless without being interestingly charmless" Jolson (Brian Conley) serenades his screen mother (Chrissy Roberts) in a scene from *The Jazz Singer*, recreated in Francis Essex and Rob Bettinson's life of the great vaudevillian

Tarnished silver anniversary

FOR a quarter of a century *Company* has been regarded as a high point in musical theatre. An astringent look at marriage and urban alienation, the Stephen Sondheim-George Furth collaboration follows its hero, Bobby, as a Greek chorus of five couples prods him to get married. The form was revolutionary: a plotless series of vignettes that occur in Bobby's mind as he is

Company New York

about to enter his apartment where, he realises, a surprise birthday party awaits.

Scott Rudin's 25th anniversary production at the Roundabout Theatre gives a new generation a chance to see this quintessential New York musical, but the effect is no longer so bracing. Since 1970, other musicals like *Chorus Line* have capitalised on the plotless form and dealt with adult themes. Tony Walton's two-level set of brass-railed platforms and skyscraper-shaped mirrors, overlooking a stage marked out as a clock face, gleams like the New York of one's dreams. The bleaker reality is in the characters.

Like the Boyd Gaines is an amiable, if rather bland, Bobby, who is stymied by a fear of commitment. That reluctance and his succession of sexual liaisons suggest even darker problems than they did in 1970. His friends' horrendous marriages have registered with him on some level, but how close is Bobby to them, when he does not know that one is an alcoholic, or that one couple is on the

brink of divorce? How does he tolerate the insidious psychological abuse that Davidov (John Hillner) inflicts on his wife, Jenny (Diana Canova)? Raised consciousness and changing mores have dated Furth's book (although Furth's *Sondheim* is sensitively revised one lyric to substitute "tag" with "gay").

The songs are the mainstay of *Company*. *Sorry/Grateful*, *Love and the Little Things* you do together, *Love and the Little Things* you do together, *Neighbors* you annoy together/*Children* you destroy together/*Keep marriage intact*—a debunking dewy-eyed notions of marital bliss. *Veaneue Co* as *Amity*, doubled up in spasms of terror as she agonizes in present tempo about *Getting Married Today*, is exhilarating. *Guine's Being Alive* and *Another Day* are *People* to explore loneliness, although *La Chanson*, as a black girlfriend, Marta, inexplicably sings the latter (about "a city of strangers") while grinning widely.

But *Company's* ending is still tough-minded. Bobby remains open to the possibility of marriage, as he turns away from his gay friends, who whom examples have made him fear his feelings.

EDWARD KARAM

LONDON CONCERTS

Control the keys

FROM Berlioz for his inaugural concert as the London Symphony Orchestra's new music director. Sir Colin Davis moved to another favoured composer, Tippett, at the Barbican last Wednesday. Tippett's *Ritual Dances from The Midsummer Marriage* are its most colourful instrumental feature, the writing for orchestra presupposing a sense of pictorial fancy that does not always come easily to a performance. Nor did it here, with Davis adopting a slowish pulse, although there was some bold woodwind playing and controlled shading of contours. Control was equally at hand in the *Unfinished* and *Brendel's* solo playing at Mozart's last Piano Concerto, K959 in B flat. His carefully balanced dialogue with the orchestra in the first movement, while attending to the constantly shifting harmonies, was followed by a Larghetto movement with the piano line slightly and engagingly ornamented in various places, and a finale taken in mutual respect between conductor and soloist at an unusually deliberate pace that tempered its boisterous spirit with purposeful character.

Frank's English Symphony Orchestra has a new music director, and Davis had to resort to surprisingly effortful con-

ducting to obtain his desired result, and there was nothing he could do to persuade him to moderate the sometimes unpleasant rasp coming from the LSO strings.

KEYBOARD music, mostly of the 17th century, brought **John Henry** and two harpsichords to the Purcell Room for a thoughtfully stimulating one-man programme. Henry is a figure of distinction in the teaching profession, and a keen advocate of wider dissemination of Braille music for blind artists such as himself.

Not that he had recourse to any such aid himself. The music spoke loudly for itself, especially when the cheerful opening *Trumpet Tune* from Purcell's *The Indian Queen* was followed by his Suite in C (*Musick's hand-made*); winsome and smoothly varied.

These, like a flowing account of Bach's A minor Partita (No 3), were clearly articulated. For the two Scarlattis, Alessandro and Domenico, Henry moved to a smaller harpsichord, with a lighter but also pleasantly spicy tone which gave added character to a treatment by Alessandro in unfamiliar instrumental instead of vocal guise.

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THE TIMES
ARTS



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■ ON MONDAY

How Gerard Corbair turned an 18th-century castrato star into a modern movie hero

PHOTOGRAPHY: Guy Walters casts an eye over the portraits in the John Kobal competition



Bodies and soul: John Kobal award winner Katrina Lithgow's Sarah with daughters Izzy and Lily and (right) runner-up Eva Scinska-Turrell's Self Portrait in Chris's Jacket

The John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award is now in its third year. It was founded to encourage aspiring portrait photographers. John Kobal, who died in 1991, was an authority on cinema and portrait photography, and founded the Kobal Collection, an immense archive of film photographs. He once said that the best portraits convey "an emotional empathy akin to that found in a bar of music, a line of poetry, or a canvas filled with colour".

The competition received 2,500 works from 1,100 photographers, and yet the judges decided to award the top prize to Katrina Lithgow's un-

exceptional Sarah with daughters Izzy and Lily. Maybe the judges let this rare glimpse of muddy colour their judgment, or perhaps they responded to the dreaminess of it. It makes an unsuitable advertisement for many of the other entries now hanging in the National Portrait Gallery.

One of the most humorous portraits is Angus Mill's Sarah, which shows a woman in a white bathing cap and costume wading through a pond covered in lilies and fried eggs.

The effect is that of pre-Raphaelism stumbling across a transport café. Others, too, are amusing, but in a more poignant way. Bernard Mendoza's portrait shows an elderly subject flicking a V-sign in a bleak hospital corridor. She is, according to the caption, "Ann Von Tietzer Wallace - Poet Laureate, nuclear scientist, CIA agent, psychiatric patient".

Heads that tell tales

GREAT BRITISH HOPES Rising stars in the arts firmament BEVERLEY KNIGHT

Profession: Soul singer

Age: 22

Where can she be heard? Her single, *Flavour Of The Old School*, has been a staple in the clubs here and across Europe since coming out back in March. And on Monday her debut album *The B-Funk* is released by Dome.

What has she done before? A degree in religious studies and the performing arts at the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education. Knight has just finished the three-year course there.

Has the church been influential in her music? "Not only in my music, but in my life as a whole. Because of the kind of family I was born into [she is the second of three children raised in Wolverhampton], it's been part and parcel of everything I've done. But I wanted to go out clubbing as well as to sing in church the following day. I wanted to listen to my Prince records as loud as I could."

What's so special about *The B-Funk* then? Critics say it is one of the first British releases able to compete equally with the best that the American R&B scene has to offer, partly because of its big, fat and highly polished production values. Knight is a sweet, old-fashioned thing, though: "A lot of American music is about wicked grooves and no discernible melody or lyric. I'm about strong tunes and strong words, something that Joe Bloggs can whistle to himself as he's walking down the street."

Influences? She listens to white as well as black sounds - U2, REM and Suzanne Vega, as well as The Artist Formerly Known As Prince. "I'm not saying that they've had a definite impression on my sound, but they're certainly part of the person making the music. And then there are the great vocalists: Aretha, Whitney..."

What are they listening to up in Wolverhampton meanwhile? "Things are very open musically. R&B and soul are always in, but a reggae element has to be mixed in there - reggae is king in the West Midlands. There aren't a lot of great places to hear music there, though. You need to hop in a car and head for Birmingham or the North."

What's next? Knight expects to be promoting her record throughout Europe and in South Africa, Japan and Australia. "And maybe we'll even take on the big boy, America. Who knows what might happen? I went into Prince's NPG shop in Camden the other day and bought a few things, and the assistant said, 'Why don't you send him a copy of your album, 'cause I'm sure he'd listen to it?' So maybe I will."

ALAN JACKSON

THEATRES

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL (L28 20)
Eric Sykes, Michael Denning, Debbie Sykes, Christine Sykes
TWO OF A KIND
Sun 29 Oct
THE MAGIC OF BOB COLEMAN
by Peter Greenwell
3.30-4.45
SUNDAY DAYS
The exciting musical of the 20th
MINERVA STUDIO THEATRE
L28 20
Shared Spaces Theatre
DESIRE UNDER THE ELM
BOOKING 01293 512 512

COMEDY (L28 175) (no bag fee)
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
HAROLD PINTER
"The comedy of the 20th century"
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
THE HOUTHOUSE
by Harold Pinter
"David Jones's production of 'The Houthouse' is a masterpiece of modern drama, a masterpiece of modern drama, a masterpiece of modern drama."
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
CRITERION (L28 175) (no bag fee)
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
DANIEL
by Michael Denning
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
TAKING SIDES
"A masterpiece of modern drama, a masterpiece of modern drama, a masterpiece of modern drama."
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
MISS SAIGON
"The classic love story of the 20th century"
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
THE MASTER BUILDER
by Henrik Ibsen
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
by Gaston-Louis de Saint-Amant
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
by Gaston-Louis de Saint-Amant
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
by Gaston-Louis de Saint-Amant
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30

FORTUNE BO & CO (L28 175) (no bag fee)
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
by Stephen Mallat
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
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LYRIC (L28 175) (no bag fee)
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THE WOMAN IN BLACK
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PLAYHOUSE (L28 175) (no bag fee)
Sun 29 Oct 1.30-2.30
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
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CHRISTIE'S JEWELLERY
Glasgow
Wednesday 1 November 1995
at 2.00 p.m. precisely

Westminster Cathedral Centenary Concerts
Bruckner: Symphony No 9
Bruckner: Variations on a theme of Haydn
Wagner: Overture to The Mastersingers
Friday 3 November at 7pm
The BBC National Orchestra of Wales
Tadaaki Otaka Conductor

Walton: Belshazzar's Feast
Bruckner: Alto Rhapsody
Elgar: Enigma Variations
Tuesday 28 November at 7.30pm
The Philharmonia Orchestra
The London Symphony Chorus
Pamela Helen Stephens
Stephen Roberts
Richard Hickox Conductor

TICKETS: from Ticketmaster 0171 344 4444 (24hrs/days) & Ticketmaster centres including HMV Stores & Tower Records, and by appointment.

Glasgow salerooms:
164-166 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4TB. Tel: 0141-332 8134
Edinburgh office: 5 Wemyss Place, EH3 6DH. Tel: 0131-225 4756

Homeless troupes bridge the gap

BIG musicals and even circuses could follow the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet into a new theatre that will be purpose-built on the south bank of the Thames. The Tower Bridge Theatre will house the Royal Opera House companies during the two-year closure of their Covent Garden home. The new theatre will have 2,350 seats and a stage area larger than that currently available at the Opera House.

The Royal Opera House will be the first tenant, moving in in autumn 1997 for two years while Covent Garden is redeveloped. After that the theatre will be available for use by other promoters. "We are in discussions with a number of other parties," said Colin Connon, executive director of Greater London Enterprise Properties.

Subject to planning consent - which is expected - the new theatre, designed by Ian Ritchie Architects, will be financed and built by a development consortium led by GLE on a site at the southwest corner of Tower Bridge, now a car park. The estimated building costs - £20 million - will be privately financed. Construction is expected to begin in January.

Desire, which is to open at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket early in the new year. Juliet Stevenson and Miranda Richardson are among those who have so far said no, while Broadway's recent *Blanche, Jessica Lange*, is unwilling to commit to a London run of more than a month. About all that is set is Toby Stephens as Stanley Kowalski.

● **A CASH** crisis is forcing the London Philharmonic to cancel some of its concerts in London this season, in an effort to save money. Last night, the orchestra's scheduled Festival Hall appearance, in a programme of ballet classics, was called off. The LPO's November 5 concert (with guest conductor Herbert Blomstedt) will not now go ahead; neither will one on November 22 featuring Franz Welser-Möst conducting Messiaen's *Turangalila Symphony*. The February 4 *Jazz Meets the Symphony*, with Lalo Schifrin, has been rescheduled to next season. "We had to do this in order to prepare for next season, when, we hope, the situation will look a little better," explained an LPO spokeswoman.

● **ACTORS** Robson Green and Jerome Flynn have become Britain's highest-selling singles act of the 1990s. Boosted by its exposure in the ITV series *Soldier*, Soldier, their double *A-side of Unchained Melody* and *The White Cliffs of Dover* has now sold more than 1.52 million copies. A follow-up single, a revival of the *Beatles* 1964 hit *Revolution*, is out next week and seems certain to become the duo's second chart-topper, with pre-release orders already standing at 600,000 copies.

● **PETER HALL** has little more than a month to find his *Blanche Du Bois*, if he is to begin rehearsals for a new production of Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which is to open at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket early in the new year.

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Flight of the Tory men

Julian Critchley on what is wrong with the Conservative Party

At the time of the Conservative Party conference I wrote a stiff letter to the Editor complaining bitterly about Michael Portillo's vulgar and chauvinistic conference speech. The letter was duly printed (along with many others of the same kind) and, in turn, I received several letters in reply. One, written in an educated hand, concluded by asking, "What in God's name has gone wrong with the Tory party?" I think the question is worth a reply.

I offer three generalisations in reply to my correspondents: the seduction of Margaret Thatcher by the free-market Right; the tendency of the Conservative Party to prefer mediocrity; and the departure of the educated classes from the constituency associations.

Let me try to deal with them one by one. Mrs Thatcher was, when she won the party leadership, a traditional right-winger of strong will and intensity of purpose. She was promptly seduced by a combination of the Chicago School of Economic Theory — the now discredited Milton Friedman — and the far Right of British politics, typified by Alfred Sherman, a one-time Marxist machine-gunner who took part in the Spanish civil war. Sherman's influence did not last, but it was replaced by a variety of "think-tanks" led by Lord Harris and others who idolised the Tory party. Enoch Powell, although no respecter of Thatcher's intellect, played his somewhat sinister part. The far Right, for so long excluded from the mainstream of Conservative thought, in alliance with the nationalist element, used Thatcher to grab power for itself, and its fortunes waxed and waned with those of its patroness.

My second point is that the Conservative Party always plays it safe. Bonar Law was preferred to Balfour, Baldwin was preferred to Curzon, and Chamberlain to Churchill. Had it not been for Neville's disastrous conduct of the war, and the insistence of the Labour Party, Halifax would have been preferred to Churchill. The Churchill inheritance lasted until Ted Heath's second defeat in the autumn election of 1974.

In November 1980, when Thatcher was finally got rid of, the greybeards of the party "invented" John Major (about whom nothing was known) rather than elect either Geoffrey Howe or Michael Heseltine who was then, as he is today, "clearly the biggest beast in the Tory jungle". The quotation belongs to Anthony Howard, a Labour sympathiser. Despite winning the 1992 election against the odds, Major has had an unhappy ride, held in contempt by the Euro-sceptic wing of the party which refuses to give the Old Girl a decent burial. Our divisions have been largely responsible for the Government's unpopularity.

My third point is as important as the first two. The upper classes have long deserved politics, abandoning even service on the county councils where once they ruled. Constituency associations have always been dominated by women, a factor that has become more important as the educated upper-middle class, both men and women, has washed its hands of the everyday business of politicking: the licking of envelopes, the knocking on doors, standing for the council and, most important of all, the choosing of the candidate.

We are left with a position in which the majority of those who serve on the selection committees of Tory associations have never picked anyone for anything in their lives. I cannot assert that the quality of candidates-to-be on the Central Office list has fallen, but what is becoming increasingly plain is the change of character that is taking place among Conservative MPs. The ballast is now made up of bouncers, whose prime objective seems to be the making of money via public relations, and whose hostility towards Lord Nolan (about whose task we should feel shame) and his recommendations, tell us all we care to know.

As a result we are now a fragmented party, factionalised, way behind in the polls, faced with a popular newly-elected Labour leader, sniped at by lords Tebbit and Parkinson from their seats in the Lords, retreating to the tune of *No Turning Back* (words by Bill Cash, music by Alastair McAlpine, vocalist Sir George Gardiner), a combination of the defeated and disillusioned whose death-wish could well lose the party the election. These are, for what they are worth, the three principal reasons I have offered my correspondent.

Julian Critchley is the Tory MP for Aldershot. He is not standing at the next election.

Jaymee Bowen's will to live is an inspiration. She has shown us all that hope really counts, says Matthew d'Ancona

Of course she knows. After Thursday's brilliant *Panorama* on Child B, the leukaemia patient denied treatment by the NHS, can anyone seriously doubt that Jaymee Bowen knows perfectly well how sick she is, how important she has become, and how recklessly the dice of fate have tumbled through her short life?

The adults around her maintain that she little suspects how close to death she has been. I doubt that very much. They say she believes the BBC documentary-makers were merely filming the experimental treatment which, miraculously, has secured her improved health. The wise eyes of this 11-year-old told a different tale.

Cancer specialists say that children often realise long before their parents and doctors how sick they are. I believe it is this deep intuition that has enabled Jaymee Bowen to show such awe-inspiring courage in the face of terrible adversity. "I would have gone to court," she said, "and stood and said 'no matter what it takes I am going to go through this and I'm going to get better'." She would rather go "through more suffering to live than not go through anything and die". This is the defiant voice of a child who has heard the wings of the angel of death and is not yet ready to be carried off.

There are two ways to respond to a case such as this. The first is to consider it in the cool light of political and ethical analysis, as a parable of welfare

How Child B fought cancer with courage



Jaymee: she has heard the wings of the angel of death

morality in our times. The Child B story has already generated a lively debate on the rationing of health care, the split between purchaser and provider in the NHS and the future of experimental treatment. These are vitally important issues and it is good that this documentary has encouraged their discussion. Jaymee Bowen's testimony may be a much-read footnote in the history of the health service.

Yet this was not the most powerful impression left by Thursday's programme. Through the moral fog — the claims and counter-claims of nervous experts called to account for their actions — shone a simple and inspiring humanity. It is easy to debate hard cases, much harder to live them. This Jaymee has done with a degree of dignity that is

genuinely uplifting to behold. "I say never give up hope unless you are just on the last little drop of life you have in you. Never give up. Because if you give up you will end up with nothing left." These are rich, rare words from an 11-year-old. They command our attention.

"Hope" is a word used too often and too lightly (remember its schmalzy recurrence in President Clinton's election campaign). It refers to a sensation less common than we like to believe. Hope does not spring eternal in most human breasts. Thoreau came closer to the regrettable truth when he wrote that "the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation".

The wish to be hopeful, to see something better ahead, is innate to the human condition. The capacity to be hopeful is not. It is hard work, an acquired skill. It requires a strong will to look beyond the empirical to the remotely possible. Jaymee Bowen's call to those in despair is not a call for self-deception, but the opposite. Her courage is rooted in realism and a

refusal to submit to euphoria or abject terror. When her father cut her hair off for the fourth time in anticipation of the effects of chemotherapy, she told him to "get on with it". When she awoke to discover she was in remission, she declared it "no big deal". She challenges those who are suffering to confront the full trauma of their predicament and still come out fighting.

We diminish the value of real hope and courage by seeing them everywhere. In today's tabloid language, every sick child is said to be "courageous" or "a beacon of hope" when most are just sad, scared and lonely, anxious to be well rather than to "touch the nation's heart". Too often, suffering children are turned into symbols of something else. Something of the kind happened to Irma Hadzimiratovic, the wretchedly injured five-year-old who was airlifted out of Sarajevo in 1993 and who later died. The West indulged itself by treating her as an emblem of Bosnia's plight; but the indulgence changed nothing. It is a terrible truth about most suffering that it is just suffering.

Sentimentalising pain does not dignify it; quite the opposite, in fact. But there is no need to be sentimental about Jaymee Bowen, as this week's film showed. She makes it easy for us by being so straightforward herself about the mountain whose foothills she has just cleared. Through that honesty she may even have spread a little of the hope that, in her case, was so hard-won.

The crisis of French civilisation

The solution to France's social unrest is to break the silence which threatens democracy, argues Theodore Zeldin

What message are the convulsions in France sending us? The 24-year-old terrorist who exploded bombs in the Paris Metro has been shot dead by the police. Khaled Kelkal's testament (an interview given before his execution) will echo around the world as a sort of manifesto against silence, expressing the anguish of all those who cannot bear to find that when they speak they are ignored, as though their words are inaudible.

Kelkal became a terrorist because wherever he went he was confronted by silence. His secondary school was too large, too impersonal; his teachers hardly spoke to him. At the labour exchange, the clerks did not seem to hear him when he described his ambitions. He visited the town hall three times, but the mayor was always too busy doing something else, supposedly more important. His conclusion was that society had no place for him.

This is not just a French story. The crisis in France is universal. Last month, the *Demos* think-tank published its findings that over half of the young people in this country too feel disconnected from the world of their elders. Kelkal's experience is almost identical with that of the black American journalist Nathan McCall of Portsmouth, Virginia, whose lucid memoirs (*Makes Me Wanna Holler*) show how he became an armed criminal at the age of 15 and reveal that he never had a friendly conversation with a white man until he was in his thirties. Both men sought comfort in Islam when they were in prison because they believed the Western world which claimed to have a Christian heritage was deaf to their demand for respect.

France is a rich country, and the collapse of communication which it is experiencing is of importance to every country that is trying to become rich. A combination of cultural, technological and economic prosperity has produced a way of life that is extremely comfortable for the majority, and yet nobody in France is saying, "Let us leave things as they are". Every candidate at the last presidential election demanded a more or less drastic overhaul of institutions and attitudes. Moreover, France is not as different from its neighbours as its chauvinist rhetoric suggests. Its culture is essentially synthetic, bringing together many foreign and regional influences. It is a mirror in which all Westerners can see themselves: a mirror which enables them to observe more clearly four major miscalculations which are bringing the present era of our civilisation to an end.

Being rich, France created a five-star version of the welfare state, combining the ideas of Bismarck and Beveridge, but going beyond them. It spends more than any other European nation on health; its doctors prescribe four times more medicines than British ones; it has virtually issued a declaration of the rights of hypochondriacs. Some 538 different insurance schemes cater for every special interest but still, all this does not satisfy. Now the social security system has gone bankrupt, without having abolished poverty.

The financial deficit is not as momentous as the human deficit. The welfare state turned out to be cold — deliberately impersonal so as to avoid favouritism; monetary compensations proved an inadequate consolation for distress. The haves and the have-nots did not learn to speak to each other. So France is spending this October in a national debate about what it should do, a debate which is worth listening to.

France created a five-star welfare state — and a nation of hypochondriacs

The danger is that it will try simply to patch up the mess. With luck this will prove impossible, and France will be forced to transform insurance into an instrument of democracy, a way of bringing people together. Modern Western civilisation rests, secondly, on the promise of unprecedented opportunities for the young, which is likewise not being fulfilled. The unexpected result of mass education is that the young do not want the boring jobs invented by previous generations, which have to be performed in silence. This means that new kinds of work have to be invented to suit the individual's more complex aspirations rather than simply to produce goods. A small minority is doing just that.

However, many among the young remain underprivileged. French pensioners have prospered more than any other group in the past few decades. Thirdly, the secular faith which has inspired the last two centuries, that ambition should focus on rising up the social scale and that imitating the manners of one's superiors is the road to salvation, has become less convincing. Balzac is no longer a guide to life. Politeness — which the French used to vaunt as the supreme virtue — did diminish friction, but nonetheless the friction remained. An expanded ideal of hospitality has thus become a necessary supplement to politeness, meaning not just the shared meal, but openness to what is unfamiliar. The top priority in French people's list of unfulfilled wishes is not more money, nor more sex, but the opportunity to travel and to get to know strangers. Adenauer and de Gaulle's



Bombs on the Paris Metro raised the issue of youth alienation and how France should proceed in facing Islam

joint venture to eliminate the ancient animosity between their two countries was a pioneer example of this new kind of hospitality, although it had limited results. The animosity has gone, but the two nations remain largely inhospitable to one another's cultures. The most admired man in France today is Abbé Pierre, who works for the homeless and who expresses this growing urge to move beyond self-absorption, even if vast numbers still walk tongue-tied past beggars in the street.

It is a mistake to see the French as obsessed by a desire to be dominant in Europe. Only 18 per cent are concerned about being a major power. They would prefer to be intermediaries between Europe and the rest of the world. M. Chirac has studied Sanskrit and Russian. M. Giscard d'Estaing, as many as 17 per cent of French books are translations

from foreign languages (compared to 3 per cent of British books). The gravity of the present immigrant problem needs to be seen against a background of rioting in the 19th century against Italian and Belgian immigrants, whose descendants are now entirely accepted. The belief that Algerians will never become truly French because they are Muslims ignores the fact that the same was once said about France's Jews. If France has a mission today, it is to act as the bridge between Islam and the West, to prevent the war that will come if the curtain of silence between these two civilisations is not opened very soon.

Finally, the unexpected discovery of modern democracy has been that governments can change their countries less than was believed (so their disappointments are predictable) and that women have different ideas about what needs to

be changed. The main source of change today is the new way men and women are beginning to talk to one another, slowly learning how people can respect each other. In the 18th century, French women were pioneers in developing the art of conversation, recognising that true equality was impossible so long as the reign of rhetoric and monologue continued. France's nuclear explosions are an example of the refusal to listen to what others say. But the French are not deaf. There are many signs that the demand for intelligent discussion will not be quashed by the taste for empty verbiage. Men and women are set to talk increasingly about how to make life a little less pathetic, about how to end the tragic silences that divide us.

Theodore Zeldin is the author of *An Intimate History of Humanity* (Minerva £7.99)

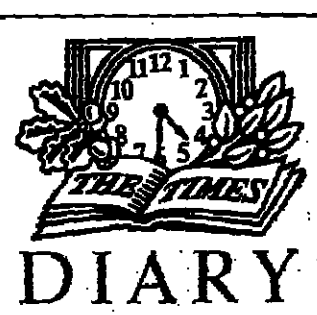
Sent down

SOME OF the country's finest undergraduates may soon find themselves in the jug. St Peter's College in Oxford has approached the local council with a view to turning Oxford Prison into student accommodation.

The Prison Service has announced that it plans to close the prison next year. And, given the shortage of student beds, the prisoners' cells look capacious.

"The amazing thing is that the actual size of the cells is one square foot larger than the present regulations for student accommodation," says Dr John Barron, Master of St Peter's. "We have done feasibility studies and have worked out that three cells would turn into two very large student rooms."

Alongside proposals from the college to turn the prison into student digs, there are plans to turn some of the historic site into a museum.



● The broadcaster Greg Dyke was ill-prepared for his company's victory in the battle for the new TV station Channel 5. Just two bottles of champagne at his West End office gave staff a thimbleful each.

Step aside

THE TALK of Judge Stephen Turner's farewell party on his retirement

ment as Chief Inspector of Prisons was the manner in which Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, studiously avoided Derek Lewis, who he sacked as Director-General of the Prison Service.

On his arrival, Howard dispatched a henchman to establish where Lewis was standing and then sidestepped Lewis's every move. Lewis took up position at the exit, where a confrontation seemed inevitable. But Howard slipped out of a side-door.

Howard's way

SIMON HOWARD, the owner of Castle Howard, is being forced to sell off some of his greatest treasures to save the house in North Yorkshire made famous by the television series *Brideshead Revisited*. He is selling eight sculptures, which should raise £1 million. "It was a difficult decision," says Howard.

● My report yesterday that Manfred Rommel had been appointed

by Helmut Kohl to oversee Franco-German relations met with a mixed reaction. Not least because I reported that his father the Field Marshall had been imprisoned by the French in 1945. It was, of course, Manfred who was a prisoner of war.



"It's simple — you appoint a deputy Prime Minister"

Dog's life

MAJJA FLICK, the divorcee who can't afford life with just £9 million in the bank, could do worse than spend a few pounds on new fencing round the paddocks at Parkside House, her new acquisition on the fringes of Windsor Great Park.

Mrs Flick owns the world's most expensive Labrador (she says he costs her £4,000-a-year to keep) as well as three Shetland ponies on which her children are learning to ride. Neighbours complain that they are continually escaping.

Ice maiden

AT THE CHAMPAGNE launch of her son's new range of trinket boxes for gentlemen (the 1995 Alfred Dunhill) on Thursday night, Princess Margaret was notable not only for her delicious peach dress, but also for the host of the occasion, Mr Richard Dunhill, she was the only guest drinking whisky. "It just hap-



Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon: she has a spring in her step

pens," she explained airily. An attentive waiter elaborated: "It's always the same — Highland Spring, two ice cubes and the Famous Grouse," he said. "And heaven forbid if the ice melts. I've already

had to discard two glasses." Her Royal Highness disposed of two stern measures.

P.H.S



RUSSIAN SICKBED

A political vacuum in the Kremlin is a serious matter

Even before Boris Yeltsin was rushed to Moscow's Central Clinic, the political atmosphere in Russia was charged with pre-electoral electricity. The news that his heart trouble is more serious than at first admitted, and will keep him out of action for at least a month compounds the gloom. However, much people claim to be too busy making ends meet to worry about such matters, a political vacuum in the Kremlin is a serious matter. The public's anxiety is matched only by the scepticism with which ordinary Russians, remembering how long it was before they were told the truth about Mr Yeltsin's first bout of heart trouble last July, analyse each fresh medical bulletin.

At first glance, this nervous reaction to the President's illness may seem odd, given his low standing in opinion polls. For months now, Mr Yeltsin's political chart has been as unhealthy as his electrocardiogram. Many voters are so fed up with the economic reforms with which he is inextricably associated that the Communists and their allies expect to make large gains in next month's elections to the State Duma. Few Russians support his foreign policies, which are daily denounced by nationalist politicians for selling Russian power short. It is Mr Yeltsin's political allies, the architects of these same policies, who are expected to suffer electorally as a result of his renewed incapacity. Why then is this such bad news?

The answer is that Mr Yeltsin's importance to Russia continues to be greater than the sum of these political calculations. The Soviet-era cult of personality may no longer exist, but the fear of weak leadership remains. Russia has never been the sort of country to be run successfully from hospital. The official assurances that there is no cause for alarm are so insistent precisely because alarm is easily aroused in a country which has a vivid folk-memory of power struggles at the top. Tuesday's summit meeting in Moscow of the Bosnian, Serb and Croatian presidents has had to be cancelled: no one, evidently, is considered able to deputise for Mr Yeltsin. That says much about the highly personalised system of government in Russia, even after the constitutional reforms

of 1993. Underlying the public debate about the President's health is an instinctive, less than clearly articulated sense that Russia could be a more unstable and possibly a less prosperous place without his leadership.

To Western eyes, leadership may sound much too grand a description of Mr Yeltsin's recent conduct in office. It is hard to say which is more worrying, his long unexplained absences or the rush of often contradictory decisions that follows them. Always an impulsive politician, Mr Yeltsin has become disturbingly unpredictable: witness his abrupt announcement on the eve of last week's important trip to Paris and New York that he intended to sack Andrei Kozhev, his Foreign Minister — and his jaunty, almost casual suggestion at Moscow airport the very next day that for now at least, he had changed his mind. Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister, had almost as uncomfortable a week. He can hardly have been delighted by the President's budget-breaking promise to pay overdue pensions and wages, just when the Government was preparing to sit down to negotiate an all-important three-year loan with the International Monetary Fund.

The fact remains that despite increasingly sharp mood swings and his always sketchy grasp of economics, Mr Yeltsin's instinct for political survival is indispensable to the reformers in the Government. They are trying to hold the tiller firm through the elections. It is extremely important that they succeed, because reform is working. The economy is at last stabilising, monthly inflation is at its lowest for three years, industrial production has stopped falling and although corruption and fraud are rife, private markets for goods and capital are flourishing. A return to hyper-inflation would arouse enormous public anger. To get across the message that this is just what Communist promises to increase state subsidies and renationalise industries would mean, and to convince voters that this is no time to reverse course, Mr Yeltsin is needed on the hustings well before the December 17 vote. Drunk he may be much of the time, but Boris Nikolayevich is still Lord of Russia.

SHARING BLAME FOR FAILURE

Parental pressure alone cannot improve schools

There is increasing recrimination between parents and teachers over who is responsible for poor educational performance. Teachers in failing inner-city schools often accuse local parents of sending their children so far behind in their intellectual development as to be unteachable. Parents blame teachers for not stretching their children or for failing to enforce discipline.

Into this acrimonious atmosphere has stepped Mr David Blunkett. The Shadow Education spokesman has announced that, under a Labour government, all children from primary age upwards would be expected to do homework. This statement is clearly meant to show that Labour holds both home and school responsible for improving educational standards. Labour has made it clear, however, that it would be impossible to legislate on this matter.

What Mr Blunkett recommends is that parents put pressure on teachers to set homework and to mark it properly. Since the responsibility for demanding homework is to be left to them anyway, parents may wonder what the election of a Labour government would add to this effort. Mr Blunkett does say that Labour would insist that the Office for Standards in Education place more importance on homework policies when inspecting schools. But Ofsted already regards the amount and quality of homework as an important aspect of school assessment.

Parents alarmed by falling educational standards are unlikely to see Mr Blunkett's suggestion as helpful. Many of those who feel that schools do not put enough emphasis on academic achievement know that they have already been branded as "pushy" or

difficult parents. They would fear that pressing a demand for more homework could be seen by teachers as a criticism of their professional competence.

Most parents are loath to make complaints for fear that they will rebound on their own children. Research carried out at the University of East Anglia shows that parents are made anxious by meeting their children's teachers on parents' evenings because they fear teachers' judgments of them will affect their child's treatment at school. Expecting them to enforce homework standards is neither fair nor appropriate.

On the other hand, teachers who are struggling against parental apathy in inner-city schools may well see Mr Blunkett's proposal as out of touch with the conditions in which they work. To them, the prospect of persuading parents to forbid television and supervise homework will appear unrealistic. The sensitivity of the teaching profession on this issue was made immediately clear by Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers. He condemned Mr Blunkett for "pushing Tory ideas" and said that teachers could not enforce homework rules "if they tried" — which rather begs the question of whether or not they have tried.

The amount of time Mr Blunkett advises for homework — thirty minutes at primary level and ninety at secondary — would be regarded as derisory in academically ambitious schools. That it should be a matter for controversy in the state system shows how wide the gulf has become between the best and worst schools in the country.

THE SOWETO OVAL

Cricket, England and Mandela come to the township

England's cricket tour of South Africa, imbued already with special meaning, came alive yesterday in Soweto. The sprawling township, where the most bitter episodes of violence were enacted in the years before political change, played host yesterday to a first-class match between Michael Atherton's men and an Invitation XI. The pitch, by close of play, betrayed the naive imperfection of a strip losing its virginity — its erratic bounce gave a South African bowler a flattering hat-trick — but the innings of the day was played by the man who spent a disagreeably long time waiting to bat in the Robben Island "pavilion".

Nelson Mandela is now the acknowledged grand vizier of the sports card. He was being a touch too modest, perhaps, when he declared at the Soweto Oval yesterday that "sport speaks a language far beyond the reach of politicians": for if there is one politician who has understood the political power and potential of sport, it is the South African President. And if there is one country where competitive games have acquired the status — and the allure — of a national obsession, it is South Africa. That is why the sports boycott, whatever its rights or wrongs, hit the old South Africa with teeth so sharp. And that is why Mr Mandela, as

astute as he is grey-haired, has wasted no opportunity to mix sport and politics. Who can forget that fervent afternoon in June, South Africa, against the expectations of most observers, had soundly beaten Jonah Lomu and his All Black haka-mates. As Mr Mandela presented the William Webb Ellis trophy to Francois Pienaar, the largely white crowd bayed out its own emotional salute: "Nelson, Nelson, Nelson". They roared, acknowledging the old man in a number six Springbok jersey and jaunty green baseball cap. Mr Mandela was aware then — as he is aware now — of sport's ability to integrate people.

The mood at the Soweto Oval yesterday was more understated: it was being an international match, after all. But by his presence at the game, his meeting with each player, and his perambulation around the ground's boundary, Mr Mandela was again inviting his country's blacks to support another "white man's game". South African cricket has not yet got its Chester Williams: Geoffrey Toyana and Lulama Maskazana are not quite Test match quality. But come the first Test in a few weeks' time and there could be at least one black South African in white flannels and his team's Protea cap — Nelson Mandela, of course.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Church of England traditionalists still have a voice

From the Bishop of Ebbw Vale

Sir, The emotive headline to your report of October 25, "Synod ballot routs church traditionalists", over-simplifies what has happened in the recent General Synod elections.

The substantial reduction in the number of traditionalist candidates returned to the new General Synod was inevitable in view of the number of both clergy and laity who have left the Church of England in the last two years.

Nevertheless, in dioceses as widely differing in their nature as Chichester, Derby, Exeter and Lichfield, traditionalist candidates, either clerical or lay, and in some cases both, polled a substantial number of first-preference votes under the system of proportional representation, and were amongst the first to be declared returned. These results make it clear that in large parts of the country there remains, and will remain, a large body of traditionalist opinion, both clerical and lay, that is determined to play a full part in the life of the Church of England.

As your report suggests, life in the General Synod is not the same as life in the Church of England as a whole. In the course of this week I have held two meetings, one in the West Country and one in the West Midlands, with traditionalist leaders from the various dioceses in these areas to plan my programme for 1996. Those attending these meetings were buoyant, positive, and determined in their approach to Church life.

They are looking to me to provide them with a very full programme of events for next year, and the Church of England can rest assured that they are deeply concerned that its comprehensive nature should be preserved.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EBBWVALE,
The Bishop,
Church Leigh,
Leigh, Stoke-on-Trent,
October 26.

From Mr Mark Birchall

Sir, Your report assumes an uncanny and unlikely degree of insight into the characters of some 200 newly elected members of General Synod. The dioceses of London and Southwark, where the liberal voice is loud, are far

from typical of the Church of England.

There are certainly more Evangelicals in the new Synod. But there is also a significant number of new members who are neither Evangelical nor Anglo-Catholic, but who would not wish to be labelled "liberal" either. These people represent the solid, traditional "middle-of-the-road" core of the Church of England. They will not want to see the boat they love being rocked too violently in the areas of morality, doctrine or worship.

Yours sincerely,
MARK BIRCHALL,
Chairman of the Evangelical Group in General Synod,
3 Melrose Road, SW18,
October 25.

From the Canon Steward of Westminster Abbey

Sir, Your headline today may suggest to the unsuspecting that the Catholic presence in the new Synod will be diminished. This is not the case. Despite the difficulty in making an instant assessment of the results one thing is clear, that "Catholicism" can no longer be synonymous with reactionary thinking.

Catholicism is alive and well in the Church of England, and among those who are supporters of Affirming Catholicism — a body of Catholic radicals formed five years ago — there are a number who would describe themselves as conservative or even traditionalist. What distinguishes them is that they do not write-off or decry as "liberal" any who fail to agree with their views as being unorthodox or plain wrong and further, they are open to the possibilities of change and development, ever the signs of a Living Faith.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HUTT,
5 Little Cloisters, SW1,
October 26.

From the Reverend Canon Jim Wellington

Sir, Today's report should provide much food for thought for all who care for the wellbeing of the Catholic movement within the Church of England, and indeed for the wellbeing of the national Church itself.

Call for return to real English apples

From Mrs Vera Lipton

Sir, If European output of apples exceeds consumption by two to three million tonnes a year and farmers are being given grants to uproot orchards as you report (October 21), could they not instead be paid to grow apples organically? Then presumably there would be less apples but those that there were would be healthier.

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away", I used to be told as a child. Now when I give my children an apple I wonder how much poison is in it. Should I peel it to get rid of the pesticide on the skin? But isn't that where the vitamins are as well? And is the poison just in the skin? What about the chemicals in the soil where it is grown?

Perhaps after all, they'd be better off with crisps.

Yours faithfully,
VERA LIPTON,
42 Middleway,
Hamstead Garden Suburb, NW11,
October 23.

From Mrs Daphne Norman

Sir, I was delighted to see mention of the Peasgood's Nonsuch in Michael Hornsby's report about the comeback of old varieties of the English apple. As a young child in the 1950s I was brought up in Chesham, Kent, where

the harsh reality facing Catholic Anglicans is that we cannot expect or even hope to exercise much in the way of further influence in the Church unless and until we are prepared corporately to come to terms with the sea-change which has taken place since the admission of women to the priesthood.

It was always quite inconceivable that the voters in the recent elections would return significant numbers of candidates unable to accept what has happened. The consequent marginalisation of Anglican Catholicism within the General Synod is as predictable as it is disturbing.

What is now required from the Catholic movement is the courage to engage in a massive re-think on its implacable hostility to women priests. This requires from its leaders a statesmanship which has so far been lacking. We must learn from the present debacle. We have much to offer to the future development of Anglicanism: we cannot do this without adequate representation on the body which makes so many important decisions in charting that development.

Yours faithfully,
JIM WELLINGTON,
St Cuthbert's Vicarage,
Church Road, Great Glen, Leicester,
October 25.

From the Bishop of Sodor and Man

Sir, Where does Miss Gledhill dig up her "church leaders" who make such extraordinary remarks?

If I have any feelings at all resulting from the headline of her report, they are that the battle for standards continues. Many of us in the General Synod will express our concerns against the so-called gay and lesbian lobby, lay presidency, scriptural disregard, and a weakening of the marriage bond.

Above all, we will want to voice our protest at that strange phenomenon displayed by many church liberals — the inability to permit anyone else to hold an opposing view!

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS SODOR AND MAN,
Bishop's House,
Quartermaster Road,
Douglas, Isle of Man,
October 26.

my father purchased a new bungalow (five minutes dash to Chesham for the train to Faversham to school). In the back garden he planted 12 different apple trees, cookers and eaters: one of them was the Peasgood's Nonsuch, on the right hand side of the garden not far from the back door.

I vividly remember one year the apples on this tree were so large that my father had to prop the branches. He brought in one that was, at least to my childish eye, about 10in across — a delicious, crisp, juicy apple, large enough to be shared among five of us.

This is the first time I have heard the name mentioned in nearly 60 years. Thank you so much for making my day.

Yours sincerely,
G. DAPHNE J. NORMAN,
81 The Brow,
Widley, Waterlooville, Hampshire,
October 21.

From Mr D. Maitland Young

Sir, I have just returned from the food section of a supermarket where I chanced upon apples "ripened on trees for flavour". What an extraordinary ideal!

Yours faithfully,
D. M. YOUNG,
Ward Hill, Rivington, Lancashire,
October 21.

son's choices, income, or a voice to speak for them.

Yours faithfully,
SUKI FANE,
15 Kyrie Road, SW11.

From Mr Kevin Barry

Sir, Oh dear, another man-bashing article applying the particular to the universal. Why is it that Ms Lawson has to apply her experience of one man's attitude to childcare, albeit backed up by her like-minded acquaintance, as proof of "the inequality between men and women once they become parents"?

By her own account, she seems to have saddled herself, as far as child-rearing is concerned, with a bit of a never-do-well. I am sorry to hear about it but, please, could she have the good grace to leave the rest of us out of it?

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN BARRY,
4 Stone Abbeys, Pluckley, Kent.

Women's work

From Mrs S. S. Fane

Sir, Nigella Lawson's recent articles (October 21, 24) are both arguing from a rather exceptional minority standpoint. She has a well-paid job which she can do at home and from which she derives huge satisfaction. She obviously loves her work and she's very good at it.

But with even the best will in the world Ms Lawson cannot presume to speak for the millions of other women who have children but no choice in their lives. They have to take what work they can get because they need the money, no matter how boring the job or un congenial the atmosphere, regardless of low pay and no matter how the children cope with both parents working away from home, or how they themselves are stressed and stretched trying to be mother, wage-earner and wife.

These women don't have Ms Law-

Scientific 'advances'

From Ms Ann Hamby

Sir, I believe that the photograph of the mouse carrying a grafted ear on its back (October 24), is one of the most horrific I have seen.

Scientists seem truly to believe that whatever they do to benefit human beings is acceptable. It isn't.

With great sincerity,
ANN HAMBY,
The Old Store, Lower Road,
Charlton All Saints, Salisbury, Wilt,
October 24.

Badger cull

From Dr Michael Senior

Sir, Why does nobody suggest the culling of cattle in areas where badgers are found to have TB, on the grounds that the cattle might be infecting the badgers ("Farmers demand wider badger cull to curb tuberculosis in cattle", October 25)?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SENIOR,
Bryn Eisteddfod, Glyn Conwy,
Colwyn Bay, North Wales,
October 26.

Did Marco Polo make it all up?

From Dr Allan Jackson

Sir, Dr Frances Wood is a distinguished authority on China, and I look forward to reading her book, *Did Marco Polo go to China?* (report, October 20). However, I cannot believe that anyone could have read Polo's works and failed to conclude that they reek of fiction.

Chinese historical documentation is unrivalled: millions of events and personages are recorded in close detail. It is inconceivable for Polo's sojourn (especially as a supposed city governor) not to have been related.

Additionally, as Dr Wood correctly asserts, no overland traveller to China could have failed to mention the Great Wall, nor could anyone resident for any period of time have overlooked the centrality of tea-drinking in all cultural social intercourse.

The Marco Polo story is part of the Eurocentric mish-mash with which British children have been indoctrinated for over a century in the name of history. Why must we persist in making children believe that Europeans "discovered" the world?

I never cease to be amazed by our detailed concentration on Polo, Cabot, Magellan and all the others, and our ignoring of the seven major voyages (1405-33) of Zheng He (Cheng Ho) to East Africa, Arabia and South-East Asia, in huge fleets of ships three times larger than da Gama's.

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN JACKSON,
14 Laimore Lane,
Guiseborough, Cleveland,
October 20.

From Professor John Carswell

Sir, I was amazed to read that Marco Polo never went to China and that he made no mention of porcelain.

Marco Polo has always been credited not only with a lengthy description of porcelain, its unique qualities and where it was made, but also for introducing the very word and its variants into many European languages.

When he was languishing in Genoa with his fellow-prisoner Rustichello and dictating his travels, the word he actually used was *porcellana*. It referred to the cowry shells (*Cypraea moneta*) which Polo encountered in China and which had been used since time immemorial as small change throughout South-East Asia.

Polo also used it to describe the distinctive pottery he saw in Canton (Quanzhou), which had the same shell-like properties. Indeed, he was the first person to notice the shell-like quality of porcelain, an analogy which led later Renaissance scholars to conclude, mistakenly, that it was actually made of crushed shells.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CARSWELL,
3e Carlisle Place, SW1,
October 20.

From Ms Sharada Srinivasan

Sir, Marco Polo claimed to have travelled to south India en route to China, and he chronicles the rule of a queen, Rudramba, in present-day Andhra Pradesh. He noted her discretion, and the fact that the finest diamonds were said to come from her kingdom.

Inscriptions records in southern India confirm the fact that Queen Rudramba, of the Hindu Kakatiya dynasty, ruled between 1262 and 1296 in Andhra Pradesh, which has been long famed for its diamonds. So, in this instance, there appears to be a ring of truth in Marco Polo's oriental accounts.

Yours sincerely,
SHARADA SRINIVASAN,
Flat 7,
72 Fordwych Road, NW2,
October 24.

Spring fever

From Mr Alan Davidson

Sir, Commentators have remarked on how bulls, birds and butterflies etc are reacting to the unusually warm weather at this time of year (report, October 24) by sprouting before their time, delaying migrations, penetrating further north than ever before and so on.

I can add an item about the reactions of the human species. To my certain knowledge, a part-time housewife in Putney has this week begun her (next) spring cleaning.

Yours etc,
ALAN DAVIDSON,
45 Lamont Road, Chelsea, SW10,
October 25.

Ticket to ride

From Mr Roderick Chamberlain

Sir, Your report, "BR lets ticketless peer off the hook" (later editions, October 27), is hazy on the precise qualifications required for non-payment.

I am happy to give an absolute assurance that I should be embarrassed to be caught red-handed travelling without a ticket: but it is not clear whether, and in what combination, a chairmanship, a peerage and a panoramic salary are also necessary.

Can you help?

Yours, fully paid on the 7.15,
RODERICK CHAMBERLAIN,
Pykes House,
Highclere,
Newbury, Berkshire,
October 27.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 27: Sir Aaron Klug was received by The Queen. Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Member of the Order of Merit.
Sir Edward Ford (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Merit) was in attendance.
His Excellency Mr. Vassilis Marikides was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of the Order of Merit to Sir Edward Ford.
Mrs. Marikides was also received by The Queen.
Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present. Mr. Lloyd Smith was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus in London.
Mrs. Marikides was also received by The Queen.
Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present. Mr. Lloyd Smith was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus in London.
Mrs. Marikides was also received by The Queen.

hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the State of Bahrain.
The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Royal Lancers, received Major-General Alastair Dennis upon relinquishing his appointment as Colonel of The Queen's Royal Lancers. Colonel-in-Chief Sir Richard Swinburn upon assuming the appointment.
Her Majesty, Patron, this afternoon attended the Closing Session of the National Conference of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation at the Pavilion, Ascot Racecourse, and was received by the Chairman (Sir David Goodall).
His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), later attended the Officers' Dinner and Luncheon Club at Tallon Chandlers Hall, London EC4.
KENSINGTON PALACE
October 27: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at a Gala Evening at Castle Howard, in aid of the North-East Folkestone Community Fund.
Her Royal Highness was received by The Lord Westbury (Deputy Lieutenant of North Yorkshire).
The Lady Glenconner was in attendance.

Royal engagement

TODAY: Prince Edward will attend the Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup Final at Wembley at 2.30.

Reception

HM Government
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, was the host at a reception given yesterday in Edinburgh Castle to mark the Centenary of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

Memorial service

Ms Margery Baker
A memorial service for Ms Margery Baker, television producer and director, was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Very Rev. David Elliot officiated. Ms Margery Baker read the lesson. Ms Theresa Ruby read from T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. Ms Pauline Jameson read *Adlestropes* by Edward Thomas. Mr Jeremy Isaacs, General Director of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, gave an address.

Dinners

Manchester Consular Association
The Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester attended the annual dinner of the Manchester Consular Association held last night at the Beltry Hotel, Handforth. Mr Michael Hammond, Consul for Norway, presided. Among others present were the Ambassador to Norway, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester, the Mayor of Salford, the Mayor of Manchester, the Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, the Vice-President of Greater Manchester, the President of the Manchester Law Society, the Chairman of Greater Manchester Economic Development Council, the President of Manchester City Council and the Assistant Director General of the British Council.
The Forty Club
Lieutenant-Colonel John R. Stephenson, President of The Forty Club, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Hilton Hotel on Park Lane. Sir Colin Cowdrey, Sir Oliver Popplewell, Chairman of MCC, the Earl of Stockton and Mr Don Wilson also spoke.
During the evening the president presented the Henry Grier-Smith trophy to Jonathan Stainer, Captain of Cricket at the City of London Freemen's School, Ashstead. Among others present were: Sir Denis Thatcher, Mr A.W. Swanson, Mr Gary Lunn, Mr Alan Lewis, Mr Mike Gifford, Mr Tony Lewis, Mr Roger Knight and Mr Alan Lewis.

Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) held its Centenary Dinner at the Café Royal in London on Wednesday, October 25, 1995. It was hosted by Mr Christopher Binnie, President of CIWEM. The toast to the Institution was presented by Sir Hugh Russell and Professor David Bellamy. The President of CIWEM, Mr John Jameson, OBE, Chairman Designate, West of Scotland Water Authority, Mr Jonathan Porritt, Former Director, Friends of the Earth; and Dr Ian Preston, CBE, Chairman Designate, East of Scotland Water Authority.
The CIWEM Centenary Award for outstanding and/or innovative achievements in the field of water and environmental management was presented to Dr Andrew Skidmore, Director of the Scottish National Rivers Authority (NRA) for the NRA's Groundwater Protection Scheme. Mr David Lloyd and Mr Bernard Woolfe received the runner-up prize on behalf of Sir William Halloway and Partners.

Weekend birthdays



Julia Roberts, the actress, is 26 today. Michael Jayston, the actor, will be 60 tomorrow

chemical physicist, 67; Sir Derek Bradshaw, former president, Law Society, 64; Dame Anne Bryans, a former trustee, Civil Committee, 64; Sir John and British Red Cross Society, 85; Mr George Davies, former chief executive, NED, 54; Mr Richard Dreyfus, actor, 48; Mr Vivian Ellis, president, Performing Right Society, 91; Trust, 73; Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, 67; Dr Barry Seal, MEP, 58; Sir Hugh Tan, former chairman, Esso Petroleum Company, 89.

TOMORROW
Professor Sir Geoffrey Allen,



Michael Jayston, the actor, will be 60 tomorrow

of Peterborough, 63; Mr John Grant, journalist and crossword compiler, 72; Mr David Grindley, 22; Mr Robert Hardy, actor, 73; Sir Edward Howard, former Lord Mayor of London, 80; Mr D. W. Limon, Clerk of the House of Commons, 63; Mr Max Madden, MP, 54; Dr Paul Mellars, President, Corpus Christi College, 56; Mr Jack Shepherd, actor and director, 55; Mr Paul Tyler, MP, 54; Mr John Vickers, opera singer, 69; Mr Galen Weston, vice-chairman, Fortnum and Mason, 55.

DEATHS
Sir Walter Raleigh, courtier, adventurer and writer, executed, London, 1618; John Leach, illustrator, London, 1864; Joseph Pulitzer, newspaper proprietor, Charleston, South Carolina, 1911; Frances Burnett, novelist and dramatist, New York, 1924; King Gustav V of Sweden, reigned 1907-50, Stockholm, 1950; John Braine, novelist, London, 1986; Peter Annigoni, painter, Florence, 1988; Russian archaeologist Peter Kolosov discovered the tomb of Genghis Khan, 1927.

The New York Stock Exchange collapsed, 1929.
Tanganyika and Zanzibar united, 1964.
Known as Tanzania, 1964.

Marriages

Mr W.H. Daniell and Miss G. Arellano
The marriage took place in Kingston, Hertfordshire, on Friday, October 20, of Mr William Daniell to Miss G. Arellano.

Mr A.N.E. Hooper and Miss E.C. Waterhouse
The marriage took place on October 21, in London, of Mr Adam Hooper, son of Mr and Mrs A. Hooper, of Wells, and Miss Emma Waterhouse, daughter of Mrs J. Caballero, Montblanc, Spain.

The European Union of Women

The European Union of Women announced that the European Ball will take place on November 18, 1995, at the Café Royal, Piccadilly, London. Enquiries 0181 681 6619.

Service dinners

43rd Gurkha Lorried Brigade
Major General Sir Peter Shepherd, 3rd Gurkha Rifles was the principal guest at a reunion dinner and annual meeting of the 43rd Gurkha Lorried Brigade, held at the Royal Automobile Club, Major W.C. Rogers presided.
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Commandant of the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering, was dined out at a ladies dinner given last night by the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at the Ardenfield, Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Cameron presided.
Pioneer Officers' Dinner Club
Major General Sir Peter Shepherd, Chief of Staff, Headquarters QMG, was the guest of honour at a dinner of the Pioneer Officers' Dinner Club held last night at St David's Bar, Blackheath, Major-General Geoffrey Field, presided.
C.I.D. Dining Club
Brigadier P.C. Bowser was the principal guest at a dinner of the C.I.D. Dining Club, held last night at the London Regent Hotel, Brigadier P.C. Bowser presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. Abercrombie and Miss E.R. Francis
The engagement is announced between Mr. Abercrombie, of Eaton, North Yorkshire, and Miss E.R. Francis, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Francis, of Steyning, West Sussex.

Mr M.D. Barnett and Miss B.A.C. Sergeant
The engagement is announced between Mr. Barnett, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and Miss B.A.C. Sergeant, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Sergeant, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Mr C.R. Boyle and Miss L.J. Shaw
The engagement is announced between Mr. Boyle, of 40 Drayton Gardens, London SW10, and Miss L.J. Shaw, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Shaw, of 11 Jean Armour Avenue, Edinburgh.

Mr J.L.K. Chetwood and Miss S.L. Pyle
The engagement is announced between Mr. Chetwood, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss S.L. Pyle, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pyle, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Mr K.R. Cowley and Miss A.R. Wray
The engagement is announced between Mr. Cowley, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss A.R. Wray, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Wray, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Mr R.G.S. Pender and Miss M.A. Cochrane
The engagement is announced between Mr. Pender, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss M.A. Cochrane, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cochrane, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Mr R.G.S. Pender and Miss M.A. Cochrane
The engagement is announced between Mr. Pender, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss M.A. Cochrane, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cochrane, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Mr R.C.G. England and Miss E.S. Williams
The engagement is announced between Mr. England, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss E.S. Williams, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Williams, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Mr N.M.F. Harvey and Miss T.M. Widdie
The engagement is announced between Mr. Harvey, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss T.M. Widdie, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Widdie, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Mr D.C. Holmes and Miss A.H. Blackett
The engagement is announced between Mr. Holmes, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss A.H. Blackett, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Blackett, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Mr P. Mott and Miss S. Williams
The engagement is announced between Mr. Mott, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss S. Williams, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Williams, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Mr S.P. O'Neill and Miss E.W. Caldwell
The engagement is announced between Mr. O'Neill, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss E.W. Caldwell, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Caldwell, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Mr R.G.S. Pender and Miss M.A. Cochrane
The engagement is announced between Mr. Pender, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss M.A. Cochrane, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cochrane, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Mr R.G.S. Pender and Miss M.A. Cochrane
The engagement is announced between Mr. Pender, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1, and Miss M.A. Cochrane, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cochrane, of 11, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Church services tomorrow

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
All Saints Church, 10.15 AM.
St. John's Church, 10.15 AM.
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NEWS

Hoaxers put the Queen on air

The Queen was duped into discussing the Quebec referendum in a telephone conversation with a comedian who pretended to be the Canadian Prime Minister. The discussion, which lasted 17 minutes, was broadcast on Montreal radio last night and the Queen was heard speaking in both English and French.

The Queen promised to back Canadian unity, saying "If I can help in any way I will be very happy to do so"..... Page 1

Compensation from the past

Two women won compensation for the effects of asbestos, even though neither had worked with the material. The cases were brought by people who had spent their childhood more than 50 years ago living in the shadow of a factory..... Page 1

Yeltsin mystery

President Yeltsin's disappearance from public view after his high-profile trip to America raised speculation that he may have gone on a drinking binge..... Page 1, 15

Fifth channel

A consortium led by two millionaire socialists, Greg Dyke and Lord Hollick, won the licence to run a fifth TV channel..... Page 2

Lone challenge

Samantha Brewster sets sail alone from Southampton in an attempt to break the circumnavigation record, east to west..... Page 3

Jail row

The Learmont report on jail security was denounced by the Chief Inspector of Prisons, who said that it had opened "the road to the concentration camp"..... Page 5

Steel's son jailed

The eldest son of Sir David Steel jailed for nine months for growing cannabis plants..... Page 8

Enter: the supersonic greenhouse

Scientists have cracked the secret of the greenhouse, and carefully sited fans are the key. The findings, based on studies with tomatoes, have been made possible by the use of computer models of the kind employed to study air flows round a supersonic plane..... Page 1

Ostrich boom

Ostriches have become the focus of a speculative boom as investors pour millions of pounds into farming them..... Page 9

Church log-on

Anglicans have logged on to the Internet to begin an international debate about the triumph of the Church's liberal wing..... Page 10

Leader's fortune

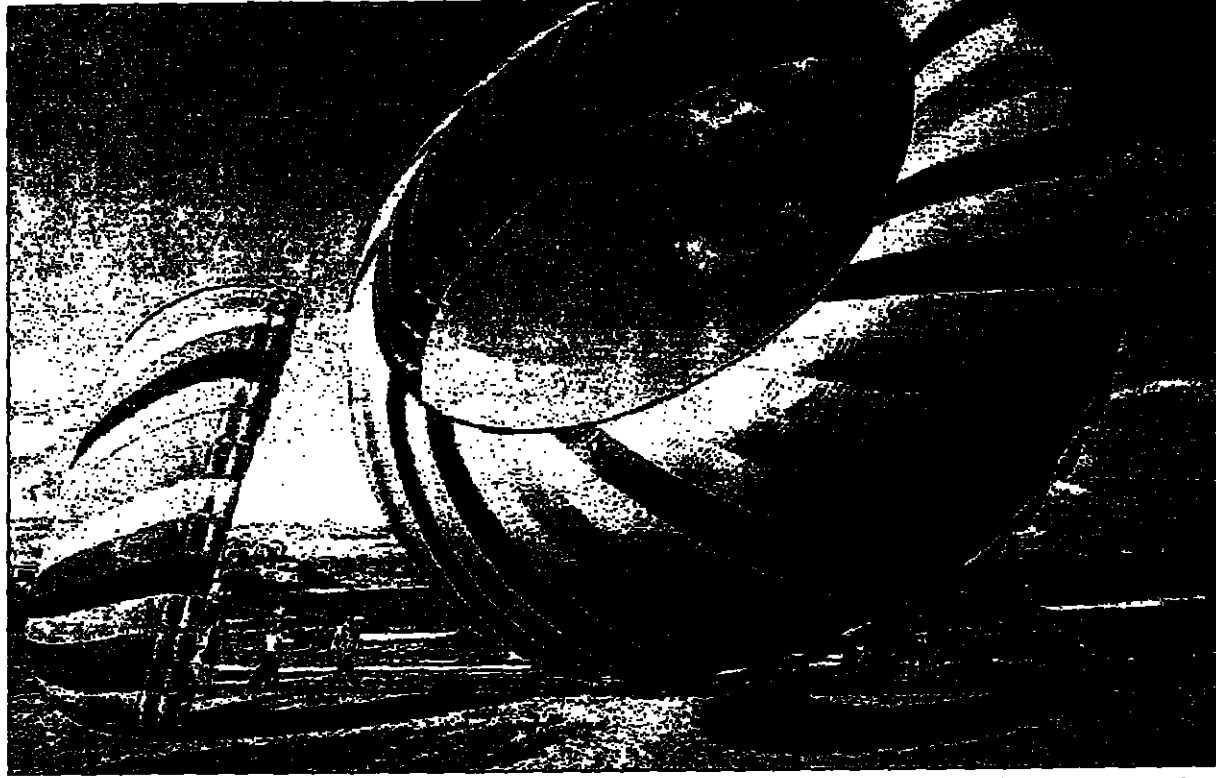
Roh Tae Woo, the former President of South Korea, revealed that he had secretly amassed £400 million..... Page 12

Stone Age treasure

An expert on rock art said that work must be halted immediately on a huge dam that will swamp Stone Age engravings..... Page 14

Picture scandal

A Greek newspaper publisher was arrested after the publication of a picture apparently showing the wife of the Prime Minister with another woman..... Page 16



Wind power: Contestants prepare giant kites for the annual Wind Festival at Calvi, Corsica, this weekend

OPINION

Russian sleight: Even before Boris Yeltsin was rushed to hospital, the political atmosphere in Russia was charged with pre-electoral electricity: the news that his heart trouble is more serious than at first admitted only compounds the gloom..... Page 21

PAPERS

The Parti Quebecois could show up at the negotiating table, expecting the usual stock of concessions from English Canada, and find that nobody's there..... Page 21

COLUMNS

Theodore Zeldin: The most admired man in France is Abbé Pierre, who works for the homeless and who expresses this growing urge to move beyond self-absorption, even if vast numbers still walk past beggars..... Page 20

Julian Critchley: We are now a fragmented party, factionalised, retreating to the time No Turning Back..... Page 20

OBITUARIES

Sir Robert Grieve, Highlands Development Board: Jan Baden, airforce officer; William MacKenzie, horticulturist; Simone Gallimard, publisher..... Page 23

LETTERS

C of E traditionalists: Marco Polo: apples..... Page 21

TALKS

Banking: BIFU, the banking union, is threatening to stymie a private Bill that is needed as part of Lloyds Bank's £13.6 billion plan to take over TSB..... Page 25

Littlewoods: The retailer, is calling a special meeting of shareholders to take a vote on whether or not to pursue the £1.2 billion takeover proposal from a consortium..... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 21.7 to 3497.9. Sterling's index rose from 83.7 to 83.8 after rises from \$1.5740 to \$1.5800 and DM2.2071 to DM2.2128..... Page 28

Arty facts: The arts may be in recession but this is a boom for publishers bringing out huge encyclopaedias..... Page 17

RUGBY

Rugby league: Gary Connolly, out of the game for five weeks, was called up for the England team to take on Australia in the World Cup final at Wembley..... Pages 46, 48

Cricket: The England touring team met Nelson Mandela, the president of South Africa, during their game against an Invitation XI in Soweto. England were 285-7 at the close..... Page 48

Football: Bryan Robson makes his first return to Old Trafford since leaving Manchester United - and he may even play for his club, Middlesbrough, there today..... Page 48

A Rollie for The Times: Design your own supercar

MAGAZINE

Master race: Roger Boyes on Germany's new superhero: the sportsman..... Page 8
Femmes fatales: On the trail of America's real-life Thelma and Louise..... Page 18
Fashion victims: Corruption has lined the purses of some top designers..... Page 42

WEEKEND

Coke: Invent the British bottle for an icon of the century..... Page 1
Choices: The best films, shows and concerts..... Page 2
Stonewalling: Restoring the slabs of heritage..... Page 4
Books: Kingsley's empty throne, a love story amid disorder..... Pages 14, 15

10 15

The weekly magazine for young Times readers
Win a Camcorder - and one for your school..... Page 3
Five books: How to get a free copy of Christopher Pike's spooky bestseller..... Page 7
Recommended: The best music, films, television and theatre..... Page 10

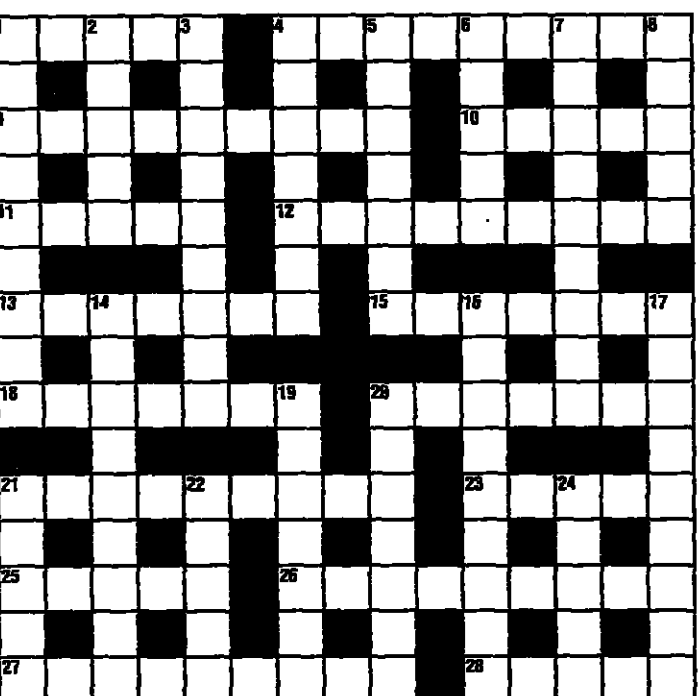
VISION

The 7-day television and radio guide
Seduction: Antoine de Caunes educates the British in *Love in the Afternoon*. Monday, Channel 4, 5pm.
Holiday: *Holiday* (Tuesday, BBC1, 7pm) and *The Real Holiday Show*. Wednesday, Channel 4, 8.30pm.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,998

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



ACROSS

- Show impatience to be winner (5).
- Car can be a lethal weapon (9).
- Speak at length - clever to keep going (9).
- A name held by the chief of a clan (5).
- Run over (5).
- Present, but awkwardly placed (2,3,4).
- Poked in the kidneys, Miss March returns (7).
- Girl, like us a high-flyer (7).
- Subscribed, do we hear, for this building? (7).
- Labourer found working a strain (7).
- The right plots one found in *Troilus* and *Cressida* (9).
- Appeared old? That's a relief (5).
- Parent who makes matches? (5).
- Run, overwhelmed by terrible glance of hunter (9).
- It may keep one on the crest of a wave (9).
- Hard sport for vessel - a cutter (5).

DOWN

- Dispenser of drink develops pub career... (9).
- ... in connection with a drinking session (5).
- In pride, not a strange way of life (9).
- Such humour in one's eyes? (7).
- Infant lulled into false sense of security here? (7).
- Admit: rest is partly equivalent to joint (5).
- Brothers not on speaking terms (9).
- Conservative and Socialists are divided (5).
- Wealthy traveller's black dog (3-6).
- Make do without being asked (9).
- In separate instalments, have evening drink (9).
- Worker sounding anxious to make tropical island (7).
- Confident this person is covered (7).
- Arab almost picked up paper (5).
- Aboard ship, hour for a drink (5).
- Many a harsh cry from this bird? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,992

GIVEOUT POLECAT
A IN O A E H R
REBUT MARGARITA
I R H E T S C K
BEAKER HYDEPARK
A T M U L G
LOOSE NEIGHBOUR
S O U E
IMPEDENCE READY
I F S D S A
PRESSURE DIESEL
A R C H U E S
PERFORMER OUGHT
E O U D O A A
RETIREDD UNDOING

Solution to Puzzle No 19,997

ANATHHEMA ACTSUP
L C O O V O T U
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
S E O N N T M S
UNSTOPPED DRESSED
S O U E
DISTRIBUTE THROW
O U T E N
PUNIC SCARCITY
E A T A I G
CLEANER TOPICAL
I N T I A T E A
ON THE BACKBURNER
U R N E R C E
SAVING INHERENT

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: N G Hanson, Abbotsbury, Weymouth; E Davies, Wrexham, Cwyd; P A Miles, Virginia Water, Surrey; M V Thomson, Leyburn, N Yorks; J Britton, Nottingham.

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Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of England	702
West of England	703
South of England	704
North of England	705
Scotland	706
Wales	707
Yorkshire	708
Derbyshire	709
Leicestershire	710
Nottinghamshire	711
Lincolnshire	712
Northamptonshire	713
Bedfordshire	714
Hertfordshire	715
Gloucestershire	716
Wiltshire	717
Devon	718
Cornwall	719
Wales	720
North Wales	721
South Wales	722
London	723
Greater London	724
East of England	725
West of England	726
South of England	727
North of England	728
Scotland	729
Wales	730
Yorkshire	731
Derbyshire	732
Leicestershire	733
Nottinghamshire	734
Lincolnshire	735
Northamptonshire	736
Bedfordshire	737
Hertfordshire	738
Gloucestershire	739
Wiltshire	740
Devon	741
Cornwall	742

AA ROADWATCH

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Area	Forecast
London & SE	731
East of England	732
West of England	733
South of England	734
North of England	735
Scotland	736
Wales	737
Yorkshire	738
Derbyshire	739
Leicestershire	740
Nottinghamshire	741
Lincolnshire	742
Northamptonshire	743
Bedfordshire	744
Hertfordshire	745
Gloucestershire	746
Wiltshire	747
Devon	748
Cornwall	749

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Area	Today	Tomorrow
London & SE	731	732
East of England	732	733
West of England	733	734
South of England	734	735
North of England	735	736
Scotland	736	737
Wales	737	738
Yorkshire	738	739
Derbyshire	739	740
Leicestershire	740	741
Nottinghamshire	741	742
Lincolnshire	742	743
Northamptonshire	743	744
Bedfordshire	744	745
Hertfordshire	745	746
Gloucestershire	746	747
Wiltshire	747	748
Devon	748	749
Cornwall	749	750

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Area	Today	Tomorrow
London & SE	731	732
East of England	732	733
West of England	733	734
South of England	734	735
North of England	735	736
Scotland	736	737
Wales	737	738
Yorkshire	738	739
Derbyshire	739	740
Leicestershire	740	741
Nottinghamshire	741	742
Lincolnshire	742	743
Northamptonshire	743	744
Bedfordshire	744	745
Hertfordshire	745	746
Gloucestershire	746	747
Wiltshire	747	748
Devon	748	749
Cornwall	749	750

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a generally dry day, with good sunny spells apart from in the South West. Here, although it will start quite bright or sunny for a time, cloud and outbreaks of light rain will spread from the southwest during the morning.

The cloud and rain is expected to spread across much of the South during the afternoon.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a dry and sunny day, with some showers getting into the northwest of Scotland later in the afternoon.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central N, NE England: dry with good spells of sunshine. Wind light and variable. Max 15C (59F).

Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England: generally cloudy with some rain. Wind east, moderate. Max 13C (55F).

Ile of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: dry with sunny spells. Wind gentle; southwest. Max 13C (55F).

NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: sunny spells and showers. Wind moderate, west. Max 12C (54F).

Outlook: rain spreading into central areas from Scotland on Sunday, and sunnier to the north and south on Monday.

ABOUT BRITAIN

Area	Forecast
London & SE	731
East of England	732
West of England	733
South of England	734
North of England	735
Scotland	736
Wales	737
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Kevin Maxwell tells of discussion with Eddie George

By OUR CITY STAFF

A WEEK after his father's death, Kevin Maxwell went personally to the Bank of England to discuss the group's problems with Eddie George, the then deputy governor, the Central Criminal Court heard yesterday.

Kevin Maxwell, who was accompanied by John Melbourn, a senior NatWest executive, and Mr George, now the Bank's Governor, went through a long list of problems, some of which had already been notified to the Bank by other banks.

Asked by Alun Jones, QC, what the Bank's attitude was, Kevin Maxwell replied: "First of all they thought it was responsible to have come to tell them directly, face to face, the problems they were hearing from other banks. They encouraged me, and specifically the company, to work closely and rely on John Melbourn. Eddie George said he had tremendous experience in handling this type of situation and we could not have a better man to help us."

Earlier this week, Kevin Maxwell accused Mr Mel-

bourn of "threatening" him and refusing to hand back shares that the bank had been holding as a security, even after a promised amount had been repaid.

He claimed Mr Melbourn threatened that the NatWest would not support a standstill proposal unless Kevin Maxwell withdrew instructions over the payment of an inter-company debt.

In his tenth day of giving evidence, the publisher's youngest son accused Barclays Bank of demanding money — also in the troubled days after his father's death in November 1991 — in "circumstances as close to commercial blackmail as I have ever experienced".

He said Barclays, too, threatened to "destroy" the standstill proposals unless they got a share of money held by MCC at NatWest. "Their attitude was they were going to be damned if all the proceeds went to NatWest and none to them. It was threatening and, as I said, commercial blackmail," Kevin Maxwell said.

He and the MCC board had

agreed the payment to Barclays in the face of the threats, he said.

Earlier, the Maxwell Group's relationship with Barclays had been more cordial. At one stage, Barclays lending, which Kevin Maxwell described as "heroic", peaked at £500 million. But by 1991 it had dropped to about £200 million. Kevin Maxwell put down the "explosive growth" of the bank's lending in the 1980s to his father's close friendship with Sir John Quinlan, Barclays' chairman.

The court has already heard extracts from hundreds of letters of condolence received after Robert Maxwell's death. Further extracts from letters written by Lord Rippon, QC, a member of the MCC board, and from Peter Walker, a former cabinet minister, were read out.

Kevin Maxwell, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, a former Maxwell financial adviser, deny conspiracy to defraud the pension funds by misusing shares.

The trial was adjourned until Monday.



Dan Sullivan has seen Chamberlain's value drop from £74 million to £41.5 million

Upton poised for expansion

By MARTIN BARROW

UPTON & SOUTHERN, which staged off collapse this summer after putting the Reject Shop chain into receivership just 15 months after it was acquired, said it was now ready to move forward with new acquisitions.

Ron Treanter, chairman, who was appointed to the post in the spring, said: "We are now in a position to consider the further development of the group and are in the course of implementing an acquisition strategy so as to substantially increase critical mass and operating performance."

"This has probably been the most challenging and traumatic year in the company's 126-year history and I am grateful for the loyalty and support of our shareholders, bankers, suppliers and staff."

Upton & Southern, based in Middlesbrough, now com-

prises the holding company, a department store group E Upton & Sons, which operates three department stores in North East England as well as three small stores, and Uniquegrid, a retail property holding business.

Yesterday the company reported results for the year to July 29, showing a pre-tax loss of £9.6 million, compared with a loss of £4 million in the previous 18 months. Losses per share were cut to 8p from 20.7p and there is again no dividend for shareholders.

Latest figures incorporate £3.3 million trading losses of The Reject Shop up to the date of its receivership and a £6.1 million write-off of its investment in the failed business — including goodwill of £5.5 million previously written off in reserves.

The shares were unchanged at 2½p yesterday.

Shoemaker plunges on warning

MORE than a quarter of the stock market value of Chamberlain Phipps was lost yesterday when the shoemaker issued an unexpected profits warning (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The shares fell 35p to 93p — their lowest level since the company floated in 1994 at 165p a share. The stock market value has fallen from £74 million at flotation to £41.5 million. The company, whose chairman is Dan Sullivan, gave warning that first-half and full-year profits would be lower than last year.

Before the announcement, the City was forecasting pre-tax profits of £14 million (£12.4 million) for the year to March 31, 1996. The company, which blames uneven demand, said it would announce a fall in first-half operating profits before one-off charges on December 6. The interim dividend is held at 2.7p.

Tempos, page 28

Charges nearly halve profits at Govett

GOVETT & COMPANY, the Anglo-American fund management and insurance group, reported a sharp fall in profits to \$14 million from \$27.29 million for the half year to June 30. A \$3 million charge against the aborted acquisition of Duff & Phelps Corporation, which would have formed a \$50 billion fund management company, contributed to the decline. Business was also significantly hampered by a protracted legal battle with the American Endeavour Fund which ended this week when remaining claims against it were dismissed by a California court.

Earnings fell to 70.4 cents a share from \$1.22. The interim dividend is held at 35.2 cents a share even though Arthur Trueger, executive chairman, said that, in spite of the company's best efforts, the board "cannot be confident about the company's prospects for the full year". The shares fell 5p to 279p.

Tuegel bail refused

A GERMAN facing charges relating to an alleged multi-million bank fraud in Britain was refused bail yesterday. Peter Tuegel, 48, who gave a Torquay address, was remanded in custody until November 24. Mr Tuegel is charged with conspiring with Peter Martens, a fellow German, who has already been charged, to defraud investors induced into taking out agreements with a number of firms. The offences are alleged to have taken place between January 1, 1994, and September 15, 1995.

Reuters 15% ahead

MORE companies plugging into information management systems, especially in Russia and Eastern Europe, helped Reuters to lift revenue 15 per cent for the third quarter of the year to £677 million. The news agency and financial services information group tempered its trading update with a warning that the second half would produce a lower rate of growth than the first and that market conditions were uncertain. Judged against the same quarter last year and stripping out flatter exchange movements, the company achieved growth of 12 per cent.

Watchdog raps Merrill

JAPAN'S securities watchdog has advised the Finance Ministry to punish the Tokyo branch of Merrill Lynch Japan, a branch of the US brokers, for improper trade in securities. The Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission (SESC) said that several times between May 1993 and February 1995, the branch bought securities of firms with whom it had contracts to underwrite new issues, actions outside the scope of permissible price stabilisation deals. The punishment may be a temporary suspension of business.

Frankfurt dealer probe

THE threat of an insider trading scandal loomed over the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, the third such investigation under a new law, as public prosecutors broadened a probe into suspected insider trade by an official broker. Prosecutors have extended their investigation to target investment advisers at a Frankfurt bank associated with the dealer. "At least one and possibly several are involved," said a spokesman for the Frankfurt prosecutor's office. "It is also possible that we will extend the insider probe to other dealers."

Hewetson shares slump

SHARES of Hewetson fell to 39p from 60p yesterday after the supplier of goods and services to the construction industry warned shareholders that profits would fall "substantially below current market expectations". The company has suffered a sudden decline in demand for timber window frames, which has hit Thomas Lowe Joinery, a subsidiary. Trading at other subsidiaries was buoyant, the company said. In the year to March 31, Hewetson earned pre-tax profits of £1.4 million.

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Gathering of the clans

By MAGNUS LINKLATER

A NEW organisation set up to harness the skills and experience of expatriate Scots throughout the world was launched in Glasgow yesterday.

Scotland International has been formed to establish an international network of Scots who hold top positions in international business and to put them in touch with the directors of companies in their native country.

An inaugural seminar in Glasgow's city chambers was told that the chairman of some of the world's most powerful companies have Scots blood and were keen to



Purves attended meeting

help to pass on the benefits of their skills and experience to Scottish companies. Amongst those attending were Sir Wil-

liam Purves, group chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Holdings, Sir Adrian Swire, chairman of John Swire & Sons, Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of the Rank Organisation, and Euan Baird, chairman and chief executive of Schlumberger.

Announcing the launch of Scotland International, Sir Charles Fraser, vice-chairman of United Biscuits, said: "We want Scots who have succeeded abroad to make contact with the Scotland of the future rather than just enjoy the romance of its past. Our best export has always been people. Now we want to draw on that resource."

Bank	Buy	Sell
Austria S	2.21	2.04
Austria Sch	15.54	15.04
Belgium Fr	48.38	44.06
Canada C	2.928	2.108
Cyprus Cyp	0.745	0.691
Denmark Kr	5.19	6.39
Finland Mk	7.23	7.32
France Fr	6.17	7.32
Germany Dm	2.36	2.15
Greece Dr	380.00	355.00
Hong Kong S	12.85	11.88
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	4.50	4.50
Italy Lit	261.00	248.00
Japan Yen	174.00	158.00
Malta	0.553	0.558
Netherlands Gld	2.625	2.395
New Zealand \$	2.54	2.22
Norway Kr	10.38	9.28
Portugal Esc	244.50	228.00
S Africa Rd	11.03	5.42
Spain Ptas	162.50	162.50
Sweden Kr	11.03	10.29
Switzerland Fr	1.92	1.74
Turkey Lira	1.978	789.00
USA \$	1.078	1.548

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Norman's conquest

It was the biggest risk of his career. He had never run a grocery retailing group before, in fact never been in charge of a company. But four years after taking the top job at Asda, Archie Norman has revitalised its fortunes and seen his personal profile soar.

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, has reserved judgment on the "Guinness Four"

Collusion alleged at the Guinness appeal

Melvyn Marcus reports from the Royal Courts of Justice on a landmark hearing

There was speculation among members of the Bar that the Guinness appeal, with its 113-day "Trial of the Century" pedigree, might run for anything up to a month. Lord Taylor of Gostforth, the Lord Chief Justice, let it be known at the outset that he would like the hearing to fall within the allotted two weeks, preferably without the court sitting on Fridays. Not entirely by sheer coincidence, Lord Taylor's wishes were granted and, at around 3.30 on Thursday afternoon, an extraordinary debate about practices in the City, practices in Whitehall, and the law's bearing on both, drew to a close.

In Lord Taylor's words: "It will come as no surprise to anyone that the court will take a little time to consider its decision." Judgment has been reserved, which means an undetermined wait for what learned counsel describe as the "Guinness Four".

The "Guinness Four", should the repercussions of Guinness's £2.7 billion takeover battle for control of Distillers in 1986 have passed you by, are Ernest Saunders, Guinness's former chief executive, Gerald Ronson, the Heron property magnate, Anthony Parnes, a former stockbroker, and Jack Lyons, a financier and consultant. Whatever the wait, it will be as nothing compared to the wait on Michael Howard, QC, the Home Secretary, who took almost two years to decide to refer the application. This is about twice as long as might be expected for applicants convicted of sticking dinks into vital organs. Howard's procrastination — brought to an end after proceedings for a judicial review were initiated against him — served to give the impression, for right or wrong, that this was an appeal the Government did not want aired.

In the event, it has been aired, in not inconsiderable detail, and Lord Taylor, along with Mr Justice Mawson and Mr Justice Potter, are left to mull over five submissions —

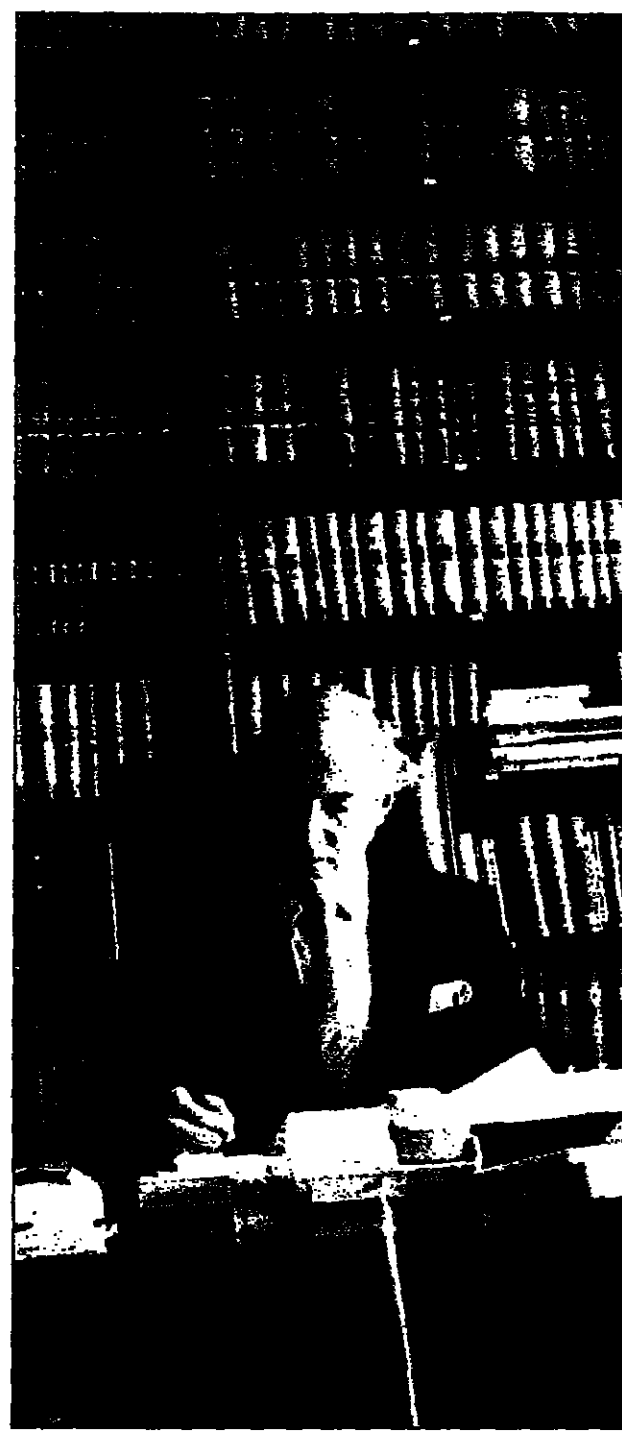
let us not forget the prosecution in the shape of the Serious Fraud Office — accompanied by a haystack of law.

There were two threads to the appeal: "non-disclosure" and "abuse of process". By mutual agreement among the appellants, Parnes, represented by Nicholas Purnell, QC, led the way on non-disclosure, a crucial aspect of which related to the fact that the SFO did not disclose details of the "TWI Tribunal" to the defendants until the 54th day of Guinness II. The tribunal, chaired by Lord Grantchester in 1988, focused on seven share support operations carried out by TWH, a licensed dealer, all of which involved indemnities given by Lord Spens, then with Henry Ansbacher. The key finding was: "In our opinion, there is nothing intrinsically improper in the purchase and sale of shares in the market under an indemnity arrangement..."

Saunders, represented by Jonathan Caplan, QC, was the flag bearer on abuse of process. The European Commission on Human Rights ruled that the use of incriminating evidence obtained under the DTI inspectors' compulsory powers "substantially impaired" Saunders' ability to defend himself in Guinness I. He was thus "deprived of a fair hearing" and the case has been referred to the European Court of Human Rights, a hearing that has been delayed until next February.

The court learnt that, in the wake of Mr Howard's referral, the prosecution disclosed some 2,000 pages of documents, in addition to the TWH data, including those covered by a public interest immunity certificate (PIIC) signed by John Redwood, the former Minister for Corporate Affairs, in October 1989.

The appellants claim that this material, extracts from which are published below, reveals that in January 1987, liaison between the DTI inspectors, the DTI and the DPP/CPS resulted in a deliberate decision to postpone a criminal investigation by the



Lord Taylor set to mull over a haystack of law

police. It is alleged that the DPP/CPS decided not to forward the inspectors' transcripts of evidence, which had been received from the DTI, to the police. Such tactics, it is argued, permitted the DTI inspectors, who enjoy significantly wider powers than the police and can compel witnesses to answer questions under

pain of imprisonment, to collect uncautioned evidence from the suspects.

The Ghosts of Guinness Hearings Past flitted in and out of the Lord Chief Justice's court. Saunders appeared for his submission, disappeared, but returned for Thursday's finale. Lord Spens and Roger Seelig, who starred in the



Ernest Saunders, former chief executive of Guinness, led the way on abuse of process



Kentridge: prosecutor



Gerald Ronson, founder of the Heron property combine



Anthony Parnes was in court throughout



Jack Lyons, the financier and consultant

abortive Guinness II trial, were to be seen, on occasions, listening attentively from the back of the court. Lord Spens was acquitted; Mr Seelig left in limbo. Parnes, who has always claimed that indemnities were common City practice, attended throughout. Ronson was not present, but Lord Mischon, his lawyer, was.

It was the documents relating to the Government's approach to the Guinness saga that inevitably made the headlines. Counsel for the appellants all had their say. As Jonathan Caplan, QC, representing Saunders, put it: "This was a case where there was an agenda and the agenda was

inquisition followed by prosecution." John Mathew, QC, representing Ronson, talked of "manipulation" and accused the prosecution of "sheltering" behind Mr Redwood's PIIC. But it was Anthony Scrivener, QC, representing Jack Lyons, who threw niceties to the wind and bluntly informed the bench that the documentation from Whitehall clearly illus-

trated that the DTI and the prosecution authorities were "in cahoots". Mr Scrivener drew the court's attention to the letter from Michael Howard, a former DTI minister, to Douglas Hurd, the then Home Secretary, of February 23, 1987. Lord Taylor asked Mr Scrivener if he was alleging an "improper conspiracy". His reply was that he preferred the word "collusion".

On Thursday, as the hearing drew to a close (with certain written evidence still to be submitted), Mr Scrivener returned to the attack and quoted 21 extracts of documents to the court to illustrate claims that the police had been held back. For good measure, he read out a further 14 extracts to support his allegation that this was the result of collusion between DTI and DPP officers and inspectors.

Nicholas Purnell, QC, representing Parnes, emphasised the importance of the TWH material to the issue of whether share indemnities were "all the rage" — material not disclosed until December 1991. He said: "Had this material been available to the defence, it would have affected both the summing up and Parnes's decision as to whether or not to give evidence."

It was Mr Purnell's portrayal of the City's confusion over indemnities and the scale of their use that caused Lord Taylor to observe that this was "rather terrifying". Mr Purnell referred to a Bank of England meeting on June 2, 1987, relating to Ansbacher's involvement in indemnity-linked transactions, presided over by Brian Quinn, head of banking supervision. It was acknowledged at the meeting that Section 151 of the Companies Act — which prohibits a company from purchasing its own shares — was a "grey area", the interpretation of which was unclear.

Sydney Kentridge, QC, representing the Serious Fraud Office, delivered a measured rebuttal, arguing that the Whitehall documents resulted from a "shameless fishing expedition". He also argued that the documents made it clear that John Chadwick, QC, had given proper advice to the authorities. In his words: "To suggest any abuse or impropriety or wrongful holding back is entirely without foundation."

Extracts from 2,000 documents submitted by the Crown

EXTRACT of memo from Jonathan Rickford, solicitor to the DTI, to Mr Hilton, of the DTI, dated January 13, 1987, that records a telephone conversation with David Donaldson, QC, and Ian Watt, the DTI inspectors, and discussions with Michael Howard and John Wood, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions.

Donaldson made the following points:

□ Here was the first concrete evidence of very substantial potential criminal transactions.

□ A public announcement that the matter was in the hands of the DPP would be likely to encourage the witnesses to be unhelpful.

After discussion of this with Mr Howard (and DTI officials) yesterday evening, I agreed to draw this material to the attention of the DPP.

Mr Wood agreed that we should continue to keep a close eye on the progress of the inspectors but given that the inspectors were more likely than anybody else effectively to get to the bottom of the matter, that no action should be taken which would prejudice that outcome.

Extracts from note of meeting between Jonathan Rickford and David Donaldson, and Ian Watt, the DTI inspectors, dated January 19, 1987.

Jonathan Rickford made it clear that the department was not seeking to, and could not, effect the way in which the inspectors conducted their inquiry and the areas into which they made inquiry. DD noted this point and in particular said that for their part the inspectors would not be swayed by any pressure which the DTI may place upon them.

ready to be co-operative. (The Solicitor-General had previously had a word with him.)

Extracts of a note of meeting at the DTI on January 30, 1987 between DTI officials, John Wood and Rosalind Wright of the DPP's office and David Donaldson, QC, and Ian Watt.

□ We must decide when we should start a criminal investigation. Four counsel have been lined up: John Chadwick, QC, Barbara Mills, QC, Elizabeth Gloster and Victor Temple. They have promised to give this case priority.

□ Main targets/issue: Essentially for us: DTI looking at it from the civil point of view. General discussion about possible offences: we should not be looking at regulatory offences, but at a general cor-

be asked to start inquiries yet... If it were known that the police were making inquiries, it might well inhibit the witnesses and so impede the investigation.

Extract from internal DTI memo from Roger Woolman to Mr Rickford, dated February 11, 1987.

I suggested to Wood that we should make provisional arrangements now for a meeting a few days after February 25 between counsel, the inspectors, the DPP and DTI. Wood was obviously reluctant to commit himself. He said he would put it to Chadwick, but he said he thought it might be preferable to have contact on a "counsel to counsel basis". He also said that he thought the police should be brought in to the case straight after the conference on

comment publicly on how the investigation is being run or what stage has been reached, unless it is agreed by all concerned that a statement is desirable.

Extract from memo of meeting between DTI and CPS officials and counsel, dated February 25, 1987.

John Chadwick: All counsel feel strongly that there should be no input to the inspectors' investigation from the DPP. There is no harm in the inspectors reporting to the DPP through the DTI and providing transcripts of evidence, but such communications should be on a formal basis and well-minuted so that it can later be shown exactly what was passed on. This should also help establish that there was no flow of information or instructions from the DPP to the inspectors.

Extract from internal memo to Mrs Brown, dated March 3, 1987, recording a meeting on February 27, 1987.

Mr Howard said he was concerned at the implications of counsel's advice that police inquiries should not start until the inspectors had completed the stage of interviewing all the witnesses.

Extract of internal DTI memo from Jonathan Rickford to Mrs Brown, dated March 6, 1987.

The inspectors are now much more optimistic about breaking Saunders completely. This development confirms the wisdom of leaving the inspectors to get on with it rather than putting in the police and suggests that we should be hesitant to do the latter until we are absolutely convinced that there is a net advantage in doing so.

Extract of memo, dated March 20, 1987, from DTI inspectors to Mr Woolman at the DTI.

David and I are convinced that the start of police inquiries in even one discrete area will have just as big an adverse effect on our remaining witnesses as any broad inquiry... For the present, we urge that we be left with a clear field, since we are at an important stage in our interviewing of certain key witnesses.



Howard: DTI role



Mills: priority

spiracy, either to defraud or to obtain property by deception. Later, we could look at the regulatory offences (eg. S151 CA (Companies Act)).

□ DD QC. Conspiracy, preferably to defraud, is probably the safest option. Enormous problems with S151.

Extracts of memo from Mrs Brown to Mr Howard's private secretary, dated February 4, 1987.

The inspectors said that they were now clear broadly what happened in about 85 per cent of the case... They expected the evidence they obtained to be sufficient for a civil case, but recognised that more was needed to bring criminal charges. This was not their job. The police would need to be brought in for this purpose. It was agreed, however, that the police should not

February 25. This is pretty unsatisfactory...

Extracts from a letter from Mr Howard to Douglas Hurd, the then Home Secretary, dated February 23, 1987.

The question of when to bring in the police is a very sensitive one. We want to get ahead as quickly as possible, but too early police involvement could make it more difficult for the inspectors — who have stronger powers than the police — to get at the facts. I understand also that the DPP is concerned that there might be problems about admissibility of evidence if the police were involved at a time when the inspectors are still interviewing the witnesses.

These are not matters which should be aired in public. It is essential that none of us

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Wall Street's gyrations spoil the traders' party

THE City's high-flyers celebrated the ninth anniversary of Big Bang in style at London's Cafe Royal last night. But there was little cause for celebration among most traders at the end of a difficult week for many.

As the champagne began flowing, market-makers were still licking their wounds and counting the cost of an expensive week that has seen many of them lose a packet.

Much of the damage in the London market has been inflicted by Wall Street, where worries about a further weakening of the dollar and the economic turmoil in Mexico have taken their toll.

London again took its lead yesterday in early trading from New York, where an overnight fall of nearly 50 points in the Dow Jones average caused problems for market-makers.

Later in the session they had to contend with news of another sharp jump in the US growth numbers during the third quarter. It lifted the annual growth rate from 1.3 per cent to 4.2 per cent, way above brokers' forecasts.

Wall Street felt confident enough to shrug off these figures and enjoy an early mark-up. This enabled the FTSE 100 index to reduce a fall of almost 35 points to a level of 2,167.5, with a fall of 21.7, a loss on the week of 53.5.

The equity market has now fallen almost 100 points since hitting its all-time high of 3,593.0 on Wednesday of last week. Turnover yesterday was less than 600 million shares.

Cordiant, the former Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency, was an early casualty, falling 7p to a new low of 84p. The company has confirmed plans to raise fresh capital and has submitted its proposals to the banks. The shares came under pressure earlier this week amid talk that the group financial restructuring had hit a snag.

Pearson stood out with a rise of 10p to 635p and MAI added 11p to 323p as the Channel 5 Broadcasting consortium celebrated the news that its £22 million bid to run the new Channel 5 by the Independent Television Commission had been successful. Pearson, MAI, Thames Television and CLT make up the Channel 5 Broadcasting consortium, which is headed



Roland's man wins for the Channel 5 consortium

by Greg Dyke, the man credited with saving TVam by introducing Roland Rat. UKTV, led by SelectTV, was thought to be favourite to win the franchise after bidding £36 million. SelectTV ended 34p lower at 304p.

Granada, which had linked up with BSkyB and bid £2 million, lost 5p at 670p. BSkyB, still coming to terms

from the sale of NatWest Bancorp, its US subsidiary, Brokers say the proceeds from this sale may be used to help finance the acquisition of Legal & General.

There seems to be little doubt that NatWest is on the lookout for suitable acquisitions. Fund management is an area that brokers agree NatWest needs to move into

with the Office of Fair Trading's decision to block its distribution deal with Walt Disney, lost another 15p at 370p.

This week's takeover favourite, Legal & General, ran into profit-taking, losing 9p at 662p. City speculators claim it could soon find itself the target of a bid from National Westminster, which saw its shares continue to lose ground with a fall of 10p at 627p. NatWest is expected to raise £4 billion

Commercial Union firmed 3p to 607p after a helping hand from Credit Lyonnais Laing (CLL), the broker, which says the shares are the best option in the insurance market over the long term. Previously, CLL had been recommending Royal Assurance, 3p easier at 380p.

BTR firmed 3p to 329p as the arbitrageurs began unwinding their positions following the completion of the group's recent acquisition of its Australian Nyx subsidiary.

Reuters slipped 2p to 557p after Peter Job, chief executive, cast doubts on the group's ability to achieve double-digit revenue growth in 1996.

Mr Job described market conditions as relatively uncertain. Revenues during the third quarter grew from £590 million to £677 million, with revenue for the nine months up 17 per cent at £1.97 billion.

The company is giving a presentation for brokers on Monday. They will no doubt be asking the company if it intends to resume its share buyback programme during the months ahead.

Hewlett-Packard tumbled 18p to 42p after warning that profits were likely to fall substantially short of current market expectations.

Chamberlain Phipps dropped 35p to 93p on news of a profits shortfall and Lister fell 5p to 25p following a gloomy statement to shareholders at the annual meeting.

GILT-EDGED: An early bout of profit-taking saw prices lower at the outset. The rally accelerated throughout the morning ahead of those worse than expected third-quarter US growth numbers.

However, prices managed to close above their worst, helped by the appearance of a few late bargain-hunters.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt fell 1/16 to £105.73, as a total of 61,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 was almost £4 down at one stage, before closing 2 1/2 p lower at 97 1/2. At the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1 1/2 off at £102.73.

CL NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street followed the weakness in bonds in reaction to strong third-quarter GDP figures. The Dow Jones industrial average was 25 points lower by midday at 4,729.83.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4729.83 (-26.01)
S&P Composite 578.21 (-1.49)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 17337.19 (-389.49)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9680.75 (-93.73)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 444.51 (-3.88)

Sydney:
ASX 2097.4 (-19.5)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2096.08 (-35.78)

Singapore:
Strait Times 2105.43 (-4.96)

Brussels:
General 7723.73 (-25.42)

Paris:
CAC-40 1742.38 (-11.74)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 6790.50 (-12.70)

London:
FT 30 2167.5 (-35.8)

FT 100 2167.5 (-35.8)

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Pearson's TV licence

PEARSON is behaving out of character; the media and leisure conglomerate seems to have backed a winner and, more unusually, it has not overpaid.

The award of the Channel 5 licence to the consortium headed by Pearson and Lord Hollick's MAI Group was a surprise to those observers who had expected UKTV to steal the show. The Pearson joint bid of £22 million was some £14 million below the offer from UKTV but was matched by Virgin Television.

Pearson's success will ensure a home for programmes produced by its television offshoots, Thames and Grundy, as well as more specialist fare generated by Financial Times Television.

Viewers could be threatened with more Australian soap and bobbies from *The Bill*, but Pearson needs the extra terrestrial channel

if it is to make a success of its growing television and screen-based media interests. Channel 5 gives the strategy the stamp of credibility that Pearson needs.

The company has been much criticised in the past as a disparate collection of assets from fine china to the *Financial Times* newspaper via merchant banking at Lazard. But in response, Pearson has moved to transform itself into a more focused media and leisure group.

The investment will not enhance earnings in the short term. Start-up costs are considerable in broadcasting and it will take two or three years before Pearson starts to see a return on its money. But its position on the media map looks more impressive, is probably more secure and may well be more valuable.

Cordiant

THE good news for Cordiant is that the rights issue now looks certain. A company in the position that Cordiant finds itself would not be so foolish, one assumes, to go public on a share issue unless the money was already substantially underwritten.

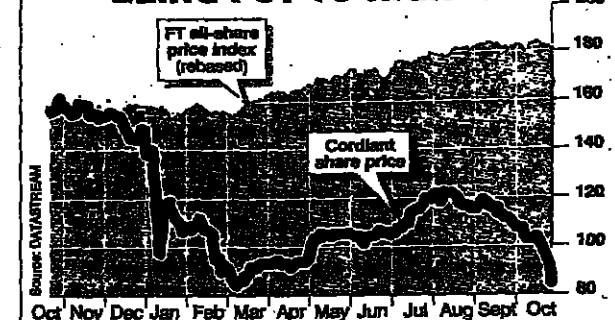
The new funds will pay off that portion of the £120 million of debt on which Cordiant pays generous rates of interest, generating a total bill for borrowing of about £20 million a year. Reducing the interest bill will restore profitability and enable the company to strike a more sensible deal with its bankers.

None of this, however, explains why an investor should be buying Cordiant shares. Some £400 million to £500 million in revenues lost

when certain clients left in a huff have been replaced, we are told. The speed at which Cordiant filled the hole is impressive, perhaps too impressive. Cordiant's recent problems have been as well-publicised as the best of its advertising campaigns and potential clients will no doubt have insisted on good terms in return for their business.

There is no reason why Cordiant should not make decent profits on the restructuring balance sheet but, having seen where their money went in the past, Cordiant's clients are unlikely to give it as long a leash again in the future.

BEING PUT TO RIGHTS



T&N

IT is a tribute to T&N's management that the endless round of injury claims against asbestos has not brought the company down. Were it a less responsible firm operating in a jurisdiction that permitted a more creative approach to insolvency, it could have gone bust years ago, and reinvented itself in a new guise, free of liability.

However, T&N has bravely struggled on and paid out countless millions to claimants. The continuing liability has acted as a spur to the company, which has developed a profitable vehicle components business, but the new profits mainly feed the claims. T&N was forced to cut its dividend in March.

The financial cost of yesterday's court ruling in Leeds is trifling compared with T&N's potential liability to a £180 million lawsuit from Chase Manhattan due to be heard in a US court next week. T&N provided an extra

£100 million last year for asbestos claims, leaving the outstanding provision at £140 million. Some reckon the potential cost of the US case could be £50 million.

However, yesterday's share price fall had little to do with hard facts. Investors are concerned about a never-ending dribble of claims and the Leeds case. If upheld on appeal, would be bad news for more than just T&N.

Any manufacturer whose operations caused harmful emissions in the past could face a flood of writs, not just from ex-employees but residents near the plant.

T&N has made sufficient provision to survive any Chase damages, but the company will be hard-pressed to show its real potential while lawyers have a lien on its cash flow.

Chamberlain Phipps
FRANCE is proving to be a disappointment to Chamberlain Phipps, the footwear group brought to the market by Daniel Sullivan, the American venture capitalist.

However, investors cannot claim they had no warning. So recent was the acquisition of the French operations, SAC and Thierry, that the London Stock Exchange would not permit the consolidation of their profits in the Chamberlain flotation prospectus last year.

But Mr Sullivan is in a hurry and, undeterred, the company made two offers for French businesses within six months of the stock market flotation. Fortunately, only one of them was completed.

After yesterday's warning about sales and margins, Chamberlain shareholders may wonder about the speed with which the directors were awarded bonuses worth some £500,000 within one year of the float. Clearly, this is not a company with its eye on long-term investment.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Company	Price	Change
Hewlett-Packard	42p	+18p
Chamberlain Phipps	93p	+35p
British Gas	238p	+15p
T&N	148p	+15p
Woolworths	395p	+18p
ASDA Holdings	167p	+20p
Cordiant	84p	-7p
Thomson	114.68	-88p
Glaxo Wellcome	848p	+49 1/2p

COMMODITIES

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)			GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
CRUDE OILS \$/barrel FOB			WHEAT			
	16/47		Nov/47	Nov/47		
Brent	16.47	+0.15	May	122.25	Jan	111.85
Brent 15 day Jan	16.33	-0.07	Jun	124.70	Jun	114.95
Brent 15 day Jan	16.15	0.18	May	125.65	Jul	117.10
WTI	16.47	+0.15	Jun	126.60	Aug	119.65
WTI Intermediate (Jan)	17.40	-0.05	Jul	130.50	Sep	108.75
			Volume 294		Volume 106	
PRODUCTS (\$/MT)			POTATO (€)			
Spot CIF NW Europe (gross delivery)			Open Close			
Premium Gas	15: 175 (n/a)	0: 171 (n/a)	Nov	158.2		
Light Gas	15: 175 (n/a)	0: 171 (n/a)	Apr	275.0	278.1	
NEC HIC 15 Nov	154 (n/a)	151 (n/a)	May	278.0	278.1	
NEC EEC 15 Dec	154 (n/a)	155 (n/a)				312.5
2.5 PPA	155 (n/a)	155 (n/a)				Volume 121
Naphtha	155 (1.1)	157 (1.1)				

When it's no party for the injured

Britons are far less likely than Americans to sue after an accident, writes Karen Zagor



Jean and Martyn Ginder, rivals in law and nothing else

DO YOU HAVE A CASE?

If you are thinking of taking legal advice for an injury where someone or something else was to blame, you should ask the following questions:

- What other means of payment are available?
- Am I eligible for legal aid?
- How good are my chances of winning my case?
- What damages would I be likely to receive?
- What can I do if I'm unhappy with the way in which my case is being dealt with?
- What happens if I think the final bill is too high?
- How will I be kept informed as my case progresses?

Source: Law Society, Law Society Accident Line 0800 193229

The value of perseverance when it comes to insurance claims was underscored last week when Julia Chute was awarded nearly £455,000 in damages for the burns she received after a friend poured methylated spirits on a barbecue. Although the money will not relieve Mrs Chute of the constant pain she has suffered since the accident, it will help with the expenses that her family has incurred.

If someone is injured in your home, any legal expenses and damages should be covered in full by your insurer, provided you have buildings or contents cover. Most policies offer at least £1 million of liability cover, which should be more than enough to meet all expenses related to the accident. The Association of British Insurers (ABI) says that some offer to pay up to £2 million. Insurers can afford to be generous because few claims are that high.

The ABI recommends contacting your insurer immediately after an accident if you think you might be responsible and are worried about a claim. Otherwise, you should contact the insurer as soon as you receive a solicitor's letter notifying you of intention to sue over the accident.

But insurers will only pay out if you were to blame for the accident. If a friend is injured by a faulty firework after you had done everything properly then you would have no liability. However, the manufacturer could be sued under product liability.

An ABI spokeswoman said: "Insurance companies will always pay out where someone is negligent or liable. That's what the insurance is there for. But if there's a big movement towards this type of claim, then premiums could go up."

It is still fairly rare for insurers to receive large liability claims, but Mrs Chute's case is by no means unique. Last April, Jean Ginder successfully sued her husband for damages estimated at £300,000 for an accident that left her confined to a wheelchair. Martyn Ginder had failed to fix an upstairs window latch; Mrs Ginder broke her back when she fell through the roof trying to rescue her young son who had climbed through the window.

These cases illustrate the peculiarities of claiming under the liability section of a household insurance policy. Mrs Chute was forced to take her friend to

court to get the damages, yet there was no acrimony between the two women. In spite of the accident, similarly, Mrs Ginder sued her husband for negligence, although her love for him remained unshaken.

In theory, suing a loved one to get an insurance payout should not harm a friendship or marriage: it is the insurance company that will have to pay the damages. The process of proving a claim can take a toll. Insurers do not make payments lightly, and the courts are often used to make sure a claim is genuine. If your friend is not covered, the financial consequences of losing a liability case could be devastating.

A natural reluctance by insurers to pay out can make claiming a lengthy process. Mrs Chute's award came five years after her accident, partly because the insurer had balked at the money involved and refused to settle out of court. The Ginder case took three years, in part because Mr Ginder's insurer claimed that Mrs Ginder had herself been negligent. In the ruling, the judge said Mrs Ginder bore a third of the responsibility for her injury.

In spite of the recent headline cases, Britons are far less likely than Americans to sue for compensation when they hurt themselves. According to the Law Society, about 3 million people suffer personal injury in an accident every year. Although 66 per cent believe someone or something else is to blame, only about 17 per cent consider making a claim.

This may be set to change. A recent move towards conditional fee arrangements, which were introduced this summer, means that it is now much less risky to seek compensation after an accident.

A conditional fee arrangement means that the solicitor agrees to charge nothing unless he or she wins the case.

There are, however, other financial risks in a personal injury case. Under British law, the loser pays all. So an unsuccessful claimant may face paying the other side's fees, as well as court fees and expenses for expert witnesses. The Law Society recently introduced an insurance policy that pays up to £100,000 to cover the cost of losing. The policy costs £85 per case and there are no deductibles. The Law Society offers a free phone service (see box).

The amounts that insurers have had to pay out for these liability claims have been quite reasonable in comparison with the many millions of pounds the insurers might have had to fork out if the accidents had occurred in the US. Consumers in the UK are becoming more demanding, though many still don't expect to receive a fortune.

Both Mrs Chute and Mrs Ginder might have been able to make claims under personal accident insurance. Personal accident policies pay out lump sums if you lose sight in one or

both eyes and if you lose the use of any limbs. In addition to the one-off payment, most policies will replace your income if you are unable to return to work. There may also be a lump sum payment on accidental death.

The problem with these policies is that they tend to be quite rigid about the way injuries are defined. Mrs Ginder's case would have been fairly straightforward, but Mrs Chute's burns would have fallen outside the strict definitions, so her award might have been lower.

epitomised by doctors and accountants, adopt a cautious approach and want to gather in as good a crop of cash as possible without running the risk of losing their funds. They are careful, cautious, conservative individuals, and long-term savers."

Dr Lewis found the vast majority of investors placed themselves in this category, with 73 per cent opting for safety and security over high returns, partly because of job insecurity.

"Had this survey been conducted in the Eighties, we would have found a very different response. Then, people saw taking risks as exciting, glamorous, and almost certain to turn out right. Today their psychology is utterly different. People are playing safe, unwilling to take even a small risk."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Virtual Shop

A QUESTION OF MONEY

All you need to know about society mergers

Q I took out a Tessa (Tax Exempt Special Savings Account) five years ago with a building society which is about to merge. My Tessa is due to mature early next year — before the merger is complete. How can I remain a member of the society and qualify for the benefits?

A Investors who want to reap the benefits of membership when building societies merge must be members holding share accounts on specific dates. If you are one of thousands of savers who took out Tessas when they were launched, you need only reinvest £100 of your lump sum with the society in order to maintain membership. The Halifax and the N&P confirm that this will confer continuous membership. Qualifying Halifax savers stand to gain shares when the society merges with the Leeds next year or in early 1997. They must have been borrowers or have at least £100 in an account on November 25, 1994, and at the date of the special general meeting (to be announced). Qualifying N&P members with £100 in a share account on April 28 and December 31, 1995, and at the date of merger with the Abbey National (to be announced), will be at least £500 richer.

Q My Halifax Tessa was worth nearly £12,000 on November 25, 1994, when balances were calculated. If I want to get my maximum entitlement, does this mean I must keep all my money with the Halifax?

A The more in your account, the greater the payout, up to a maximum £50,000 balance. Your share of the payout will be based on your balance on November 25, 1994, and the date of the SGM, so you may need to top it up in advance. You will be notified of the SGM date. But though the Tessa and its interest are tax-free, if you hold your money in a savings account while you are waiting for the merger, you will have to pay tax on the interest. N&P says savers whose Tessas were maturing

will get the £750 of Abbey National shares awarded to all two-year savers if they opened a new savings account, and a further payment based on the percentage of the balance in their account at December 31, 1995.

Q My Tessa matures in January and I have only six months within which to reinvest it. I do not know the merger date. Do I have to take out another Halifax Tessa to ensure I qualify for a new Tessa and my maximum payout?

A The Halifax says that since it does not know the SGM or merger dates, investors would be wise to put their money into another Halifax Tessa if they want to shield it from tax while receiving a payout on their maximum balance. But the society has made clear that payouts will be weighted in favour of those with basic membership rights — ie, with small balances of more than £100. The next qualifying band is £1,000, up to a £50,000 maximum.

Q My mortgage with the Halifax is about to mature. How can I stay a member of the society?

A Those whose mortgage ends before the merger is complete can remain members by keeping £125 outstanding on their mortgage account. They pay interest at the normal variable rate and the debt can eventually be paid off in a lump sum. If they want to buy another house they must reapply for a new mortgage.

Q I am selling my home at a loss and moving to rented accommodation. Can I continue my mortgage debt repayments to pay off my mortgage equity and remain a borrower and member of the society?

A This depends on your local branch. Some branches may be prepared to allow you to continue with the mortgage repayments, but it depends on your personal circumstances. The Halifax says that there is no blanket policy on this issue.

Are you one of life's hunters? If you won a thousand pounds at the races would you gamble it all again in the hope of making a million? Or are you so frightened of ending up penniless that you hide your money under the bed?

No matter what sex, class or age you are, you are either a hunter, a farmer or a gatherer when it comes to investment, says Dr David Lewis, a psychologist. If you like to play safe, enjoy a little risk but would never stake everything on a single gamble, then you are a farmer, in common with John Major, Sir Colin Marshall, Eddie George and Cedric Brown.

Dr Lewis says these personality types, which make up just under a third of investors, never walk away from a deal empty handed, and will probably enjoy a lifetime of steady

Hunter, farmer, or plodding gatherer?

income. But they are outshone by the aggressive hunters, who are constantly on the look-out for the highest returns, and range from life's sophisticated players — George Soros, Rupert Murdoch, Lord King, Margaret Thatcher — to the utterly naive.

"While a minority of skilled hunters return from the chase weighed down with wealth, the unwise or unwary can receive a painful mauling in the investment jungle," he says. Dr Lewis, a former lecturer at Sussex University

who now runs his own consultancy in Tunbridge Wells, conducted a telephone survey among 1,000 investors with NatWest Bank's help.

He found that unlike Americans, British investors are reluctant to take big risks. Only one in five is prepared to risk making a good profit, even when the worst he can suffer is to make no gain at all. Nevertheless, they are more aggressive than the Japanese, who as a nation are more timid investors, or gatherers. "Gatherers,

epitomised by doctors and accountants, adopt a cautious approach and want to gather in as good a crop of cash as possible without running the risk of losing their funds. They are careful, cautious, conservative individuals, and long-term savers."

Dr Lewis found the vast majority of investors placed themselves in this category, with 73 per cent opting for safety and security over high returns, partly because of job insecurity.

"Had this survey been conducted in the Eighties, we would have found a very different response. Then, people saw taking risks as exciting, glamorous, and almost certain to turn out right. Today their psychology is utterly different. People are playing safe, unwilling to take even a small risk."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

S&P tops Pep-movers list

Abandoning a poor-performing personal equity plan takes courage. But investors are increasingly deciding to cut their losses and transfer to new plans in the hope of better things. The trend has been spurred by the compilation of Pep league tables where plans are rated on various criteria, including yield and "consistency", giving an overall score. Consistency is a measure of a plan's consistent performance which can often be in marked contrast with the statistics used to promote a Pep. These will highlight the periods when a plan outdid, rather than lagged, its peers.

The league tables are prepared by independent Pep research groups, such as Allenbridge and BEST Investment which calls its list of Peps best abandoned as a hopeless cause, its "Pack of Dogs". Allenbridge suggests investors should

switch from any Pep scoring 33 points or below (chart-toppers can score up to 90). The group will provide a report on the performance of your Pep, comparing it with its recommended plans. Before deciding to transfer, investors should assess the cost of the exercise. Some Pep providers make a charge for transferring. There is also almost certain to be an entrance fee for your new Pep of an initial charge of 2-6 per cent. An analysis of 1,000 investors who switched Peps via Allenbridge shows that most (122) transferred from Save & Prosper. Another 106 turned their backs on Invesco. 50 each decamped from Lloyds, Allied Dunbar and Fidelity, and 38 quit Midland. For a free copy of the latest league table, call Allenbridge on 0500 551000.

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Don't stand so close to me

The unhappy experience of the pop star Sing whose trust in his accountant was so badly, and so expensively, deceived is a cautionary tale for all those who put their faith in a financial adviser. The singer felt that there was little need to seek information about his investments as his adviser had become a pal.

All those who have also seen a business relationship turn into a friendship have felt embarrassed about asking even simple questions. The elderly victims of the home-income plan scandals of the Eighties are a case in point.

Even when some suspected that things were going badly wrong, they felt reluctant to voice their concerns to their adviser, as he had been "often a guest in our home", or, in one instance, "like a son to us".

As I noted down their remarks, I would reflect that the adviser's betrayal seemed almost as painful as the

mismanagement of their money.

The pensioners who are still trying to obtain compensation for their home-income plan losses may be consoled to learn that their misery may have helped to change the system. Those financial advisers whose aim is to do their best for their clients, as we report (pages 32-33) starting to be impressed by their new watchdog, the Personal Investment Authority.

Visits from its staff are described as "daunting", rather than routine and predictable, as was the case under the old regime. Fimbria, the PIA's predecessor, placed great reliance on paperwork. But the emphasis is now more on the products recommended.

Advisers are assailed with guidance on correct practice and playing by the rules. Firms of compliance consultants (a calling that must take some explaining at parties) review procedures and suggest improvements. Mean-



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

while, almost every week, another product becomes a danger zone.

This week, for example, a report, *Advanced Mortgage Principles*, from the PJ Barry Consultancy, is addressed to those few advisers who still cling to the belief that endowment mortgages are a good thing. The report suggests that, in a low inflation environment, with falling house prices, a repayment loan is the only defensible option for a client who wishes to borrow a high percentage of a property's value.

The new awareness of the watchdogs will not unearth every rogue, or piece of

risk. For the gatherer type, the word "guaranteed" has an especially reassuring ring which may be the reason why financial marketing persons are so fond of it.

But, as every gatherer also knows, guarantees may not be what they seem. The Japanese Guaranteed Stock Market Bond from Save & Prosper, bears out this view.

Investors are promised 125 per cent of the growth in the Japanese market. Charles Levetz-Scribner, small-print expert at Towry Low, the financial adviser, has however, spotted a line stating that the growth will be calculated "using the average of quarterly index levels."

He explains: "This manoeuvre roughly halves the value of the rise in the index, before the multiplier (the 125 per cent) is applied. This means that the 125 per cent pledge is misleading." But even before this warning, gatherers may have been frightened off. Japan is altogether too far away.

Too risky

IN A less than surprising finding, a psychologist has concluded that most investors are "gatherers", averse to



Fosse Way Court leaseholders balked at the two special levies from their landlord

Tenants take action to cut service bill

Eight leaseholders have forced their landlord to reduce demands for service charges of £2,500 each after a court battle. The court ruled that the landlord had been wrong to demand money from leaseholders for repairs without giving them a chance to obtain their own quotations. It also dismissed the landlord's claim that he had the right to ignore legal requirements to consult leaseholders, on the grounds that repairs were urgent.

Every & Phillips, the Honiton, Devon, solicitor that acted for the tenants, thinks it is the first time leaseholders' rights to dispute service charges have been tested in court when a landlord has not met obligations under Landlord and Tenant Acts to consult residents and act reasonably.

In recent months, *The Times* has highlighted several cases of leaseholders facing big bills for service charges from landlords. Landlords have tried to prevent tenants from exercising their legal rights by threatening them with the prospect of huge legal costs.

In this case, leaseholders' costs, including lost earnings and expenses, were £30,000. They could have had to pay the landlord's costs, which could total more than £100,000, if they had lost. But Patrick Stow, son-in-law of one of the leaseholders, said: "The costs are not that horrendous if you

Sara McConnell
reports on a
victory over
unreasonable
repair demands

stick together." The eight leaseholders are among 30 owners of flats at Fosse Way Court, two 1960s blocks in Seaton, Devon. The roof of one block was badly damaged in the winter storms of 1990. The landlord's managing agent claimed on the insurance for repairs. He took advantage of the scaffolding put up for the roof repairs to carry out other maintenance. At the same time, a survey on a flat for sale in a neighbouring block revealed defective concrete, prompting the managing agent to have a concrete survey at Fosse Way Court.

The estimate for repairs was £46,500, and flat owners were asked for a special levy of £1,800. Eight refused, saying the landlord had not allowed them their right to get alternative quotations or given them time to consider and that the costs were unreasonable. The landlord claimed all the residents had agreed the work should be done urgently.

The law requires landlords to give tenants details of the works and two estimates. Ten-

ants have a month to get further quotations. In an emergency, the landlord can apply to the courts for a dispensation from having to consult with tenants as long as he can convince the court that he has acted reasonably.

Several months after work began at Fosse Way Court, it emerged that two beams in one of the blocks were disintegrating. The residents were asked for another special levy of £500 each, again stressing the urgency. Again, some flat owners refused to pay the full amount, arguing that they had not been consulted.

Judge Rutherford ruled at Bridgewater County Court that the landlord had not acted reasonably by demanding more money for the beam repairs, so could not dispense with the need to consult tenants on these works. He said: "There was not even an attempt to negotiate with the flat owners or request their approval to dispense with the requirements of the Act."

The court reduced each flatowner's bill from £2,500 to £1,735, ruling that the landlord could only claim the statutory minimum of £50 per flat for the beam repairs, as he had not acted reasonably. But tenants were ordered to pay the full cost of the other works, a total of £1,685, because the landlord had acted reasonably in taking advantage of scaffolding and in consulting residents.

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Cruy Casuels Ciro	27	140p per C Casual share	12/10	11/12		
Dobson Park Ham'schlegler	208	improved offer, 130p cash and 3.3p first div	8/9	10/11		
Midlands Elec Powergen	1,950	£10 cash per share	19/9	10/11		
Fine Decor International Walkover's	22	172p cash per share	12/10	2/11		
Vesco	25.4	1 new Lynx per 2.914 Video share	25/9	8/11		
Southern National	2,800	£25p cash & 185p special div. per Southern share	13/10	3/11		
Electric Power North West Wtr	1,807	3.910p cash & 200W shares for 5 Newwtr shares for 5 Newwtr shares for 5 Newwtr shares	11/10	8/11		
Northern Wtr Lyonnais	n/a	Subject to regulatory go ahead	n/a	n/a		

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FT Quarterly Review of Personal Finance
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The financial services industry may have its share of life assurance salesmen calling themselves independent financial advisers, mainly interested in lining their own pockets, despite years of regulation. But there is a growing number of financial advisers keen to prove it is possible to get unbiased, independent advice, which need not involve selling anything.

You can never be absolutely certain your financial adviser is honest, competent and solvent enough to be around in 10 years. But you have more chance of emerging unscathed if you ask some searching questions before committing yourself, and understand how advisers work.

James Higgins and Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, London

"You should sit down with two or three different firms of advisers before choosing. You shouldn't be charged for the first meeting. If you are talking to someone about your finances you should feel comfortable and be able to strike up a rapport. You should not feel under pressure.

"Ask about the fee structure and whether any commission received is rebated. We always explain our fees at the first meeting. We explain we are not allowed to hold clients' money and are purely advisory. We explain our backgrounds, so that clients know who they are dealing with, then we ask them about their family circumstances, income, other money, how long they've been employed.

"It is important to go away unencumbered (with sales literature), a written, initial ap-

praisal of your finances and what was discussed should be sent on later. If you do not understand the appraisal and the "reason why" letter (explaining reasons for any advice given, sent with the appraisal), ask, and take it to another fee-based adviser to see what he or she makes of it."

Chamberlain de Broe does not charge for the initial appraisal. Some investors can and do take the appraisal and make their own arrangements. Those who do want to follow up the initial appraisal will be charged £85 an hour.

Richard Boyton, Boyton Financial Services, Halstead, Essex

"Most IFAs are life assurance oriented and people get sucked into buying long-term contracts because of the commission they pay. We are technical analysts. We decide what we think a portfolio should be in and which sector and then look at how to get there. We can analyse the performance of 1,400 funds. You should expect someone like me to add value. I am happy to do nothing if necessary.

"You should ask yourself before you start, do I have a rapport with this person? We do a lot of talking on the phone initially. Few people actually come to the office, because we believe this is an unnecessary cost to our customers.

"We ask what investments you have got over the phone and get you to put it in writing. Our view here is that we will write and make suggestions and then it is up to you to come back. Anyone who does come back will be charged up to £140 an hour. This includes the cost of the initial telephone conversation or appraisal, which costs £35 for 18 minutes. Those who do not come back will not be charged this."

Nic Round, Nic Round Associates, Shrewsbury

"Our first assessment is always free. We think it is unfair to ask people to pay. We will have a look at your situation for free. The written report which follows is also free. If we have identified areas where we can help, we won't start work without your agreement. We see ourselves as tax and financial planners. It is amazing how much you can do by shuffling investments to get more tax relief.

"You have to be sure you get value for money. You must ask what commission or fees you are being charged and their structure. Ask questions and take stock." Nic Round charges £100 an hour. Commissions are normally rebated but if the commission works out cheaper than the fee, investors can be offered the commission instead.

STUNG: The case of Sting, who had £6m stolen by Keith Moore, highlights the need for investors to ask the right questions when choosing an adviser and to be ever-vigilant thereafter

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in September 1995

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
January	-	0.823	0.734	0.651	0.585	0.506	0.458
February	-	0.815	0.727	0.638	0.569	0.500	0.452
March	0.898	0.812	0.722	0.623	0.557	0.487	0.447
April	0.898	0.787	0.693	0.593	0.524	0.478	0.428
May	0.845	0.775	0.683	0.582	0.529	0.478	0.418
June	0.840	0.775	0.688	0.578	0.540	0.478	0.413
July	0.839	0.768	0.680	0.581	0.544	0.479	0.411
August	0.839	0.758	0.675	0.577	0.540	0.475	0.398
September	0.840	0.750	0.671	0.578	0.532	0.471	0.399
October	0.831	0.744	0.661	0.575	0.530	0.464	0.378
November	0.822	0.738	0.659	0.571	0.526	0.460	0.369
December	0.825	0.738	0.657	0.568	0.512	0.458	0.365

Month purchased	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
January	0.357	0.260	0.157	0.111	0.092	0.068	0.032
February	0.347	0.259	0.150	0.105	0.085	0.060	0.025
March	0.341	0.241	0.148	0.102	0.081	0.057	0.021
April	0.318	0.204	0.131	0.085	0.071	0.044	0.011
May	0.310	0.193	0.128	0.081	0.067	0.041	0.007
June	0.305	0.188	0.123	0.081	0.068	0.041	0.005
July	0.304	0.188	0.125	0.085	0.070	0.046	0.010
August	0.301	0.178	0.123	0.084	0.068	0.041	0.005
September	0.292	0.165	0.119	0.080	0.061	0.038	-
October	0.292	0.159	0.115	0.078	0.062	0.037	-
November	0.271	0.158	0.111	0.078	0.064	0.036	-
December	0.268	0.159	0.110	0.082	0.061	0.032	-

The 11 month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1995 (April 1, 1995 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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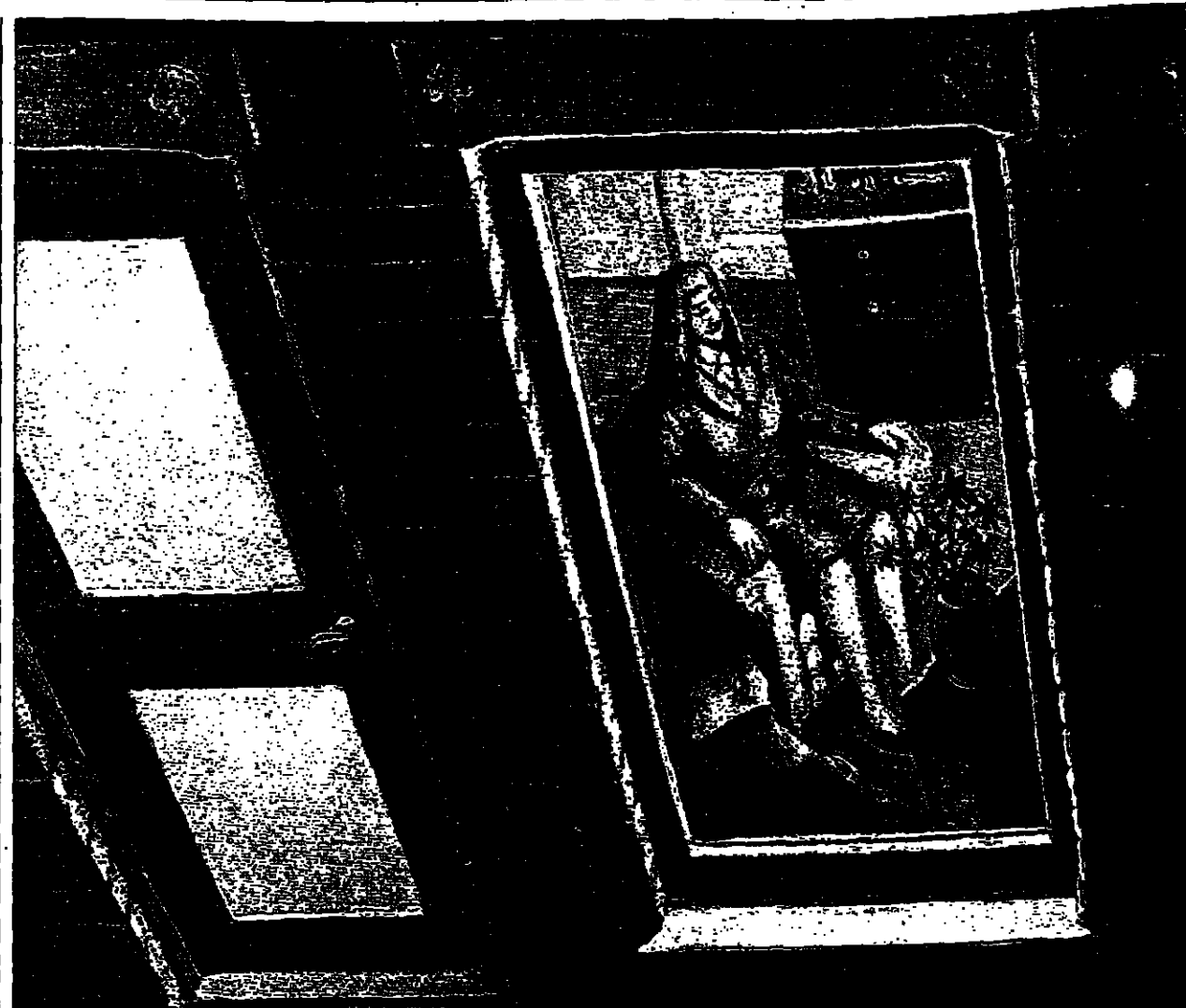


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■ Are renters throwing away their financial future?

With no end in sight to the housing market doldrums, more people are renting instead of buying. A survey by Cluttons London Residential Agency noted that lettings in July, August and September, traditionally the peak renting season, were 10 per cent ahead of last year.

Guy Griffin, head of Foxtons short-let properties department, says: "The idea of sales is no longer what it was in the 1990s."

"The housing market is fairly stable in London, but it's not going up. No longer can you expect to get 10 per cent-plus per annum. And there is the fear that prices could drop again."

Nor is the trend confined to London. Ann Gibbons, lettings negotiator with Robert Jordan Associates, estate agents in Manchester, has

She says: "I think people are a little wary. They are worried about their jobs and about the housing market."

■ Are renters throwing away their financial future?

son-Gough of financial planners Kirkham Motte Partners, says: "This preoccupation with home ownership is very much a British disease. In Europe and America people tend to rent until they have a wad of money in the bank. Then they buy later using a much higher cash element."

■ When does it make sense to rent?

Some argue though that there is no point buying in the current market unless your mortgage payments are markedly less than the amount you would pay in rent. Kim Wil-

Mr Wilson-Gough believes many people would be better off living below their means in rental accommodation for several years and putting their savings into a tax-sheltered

investment which has a good chance of growing. By waiting until you have a bigger nest egg, you will be able to get a smaller mortgage with lower monthly payments. And you will not lose as much in interest to the bank.

"You must do the numbers very carefully," says Wilson-Gough. "It is important to make a lifetime plan and ask yourself what you are trying to achieve."

■ The cost of buying

When deciding whether to brave the housing market, it is important to calculate the true cost of home ownership. First there are the initial expenses such as legal and survey fees. You may also have to buy home appliances, such as a fridge and cooker. Then there are the regular expenses such as repairs, water rates, building and contents insurance and council tax. There may also be ground rent. And there will almost always be decorating expenses, because once

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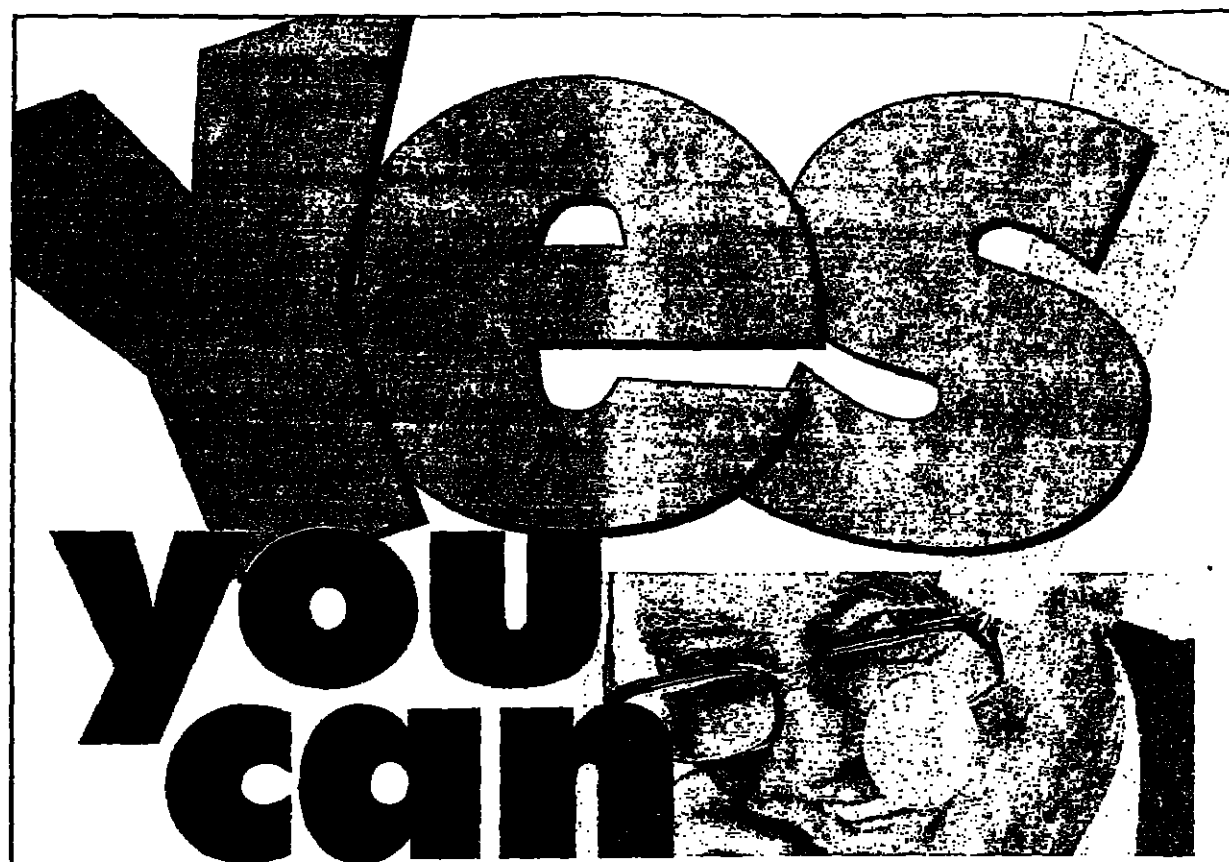
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you own a home it is hard to resist spending money on it.

The cost of renting

Tenants do not pay for repairs or appliances. If the boiler breaks, the landlord must repair it. Landlords also usually pay water rates. But tenants are responsible for council tax, gas, electricity and telephone bills. Initially, there may also be tenancy agreement fees, of about £50 to £80 plus VAT. Tenants will be expected to leave a deposit of four to six weeks' rent.

What will you get when you rent?

The amount of space you get will depend on how many other people are hoping to rent the same property. The further you are from the London commuter belt, the cheaper your rent should be. In areas where there is high demand for two-bedroom flats, it may not cost much more to rent a three-bedroom property.

According to September rental figures from Winkworth, average rent for a two-bedroom flat in Islington, north London, is £250 a week, compared with £150 a week in Battersea, south London. By contrast, Chittons says a de-huze three-bedroom cottage in Oxfordshire would rent for less than £175 a week.

How secure is your rental?

Renting is a good idea for the footloose, who do not plan to stay in one spot for long. But the flexibility comes at a cost. Under the Housing Act of 1988, short-term tenants are guaranteed a six months tenancy. After that, the landlord can give notice to repossess the property. Usually a landlord will have to give a tenant two months' notice, while a tenant

usually only has to give a landlord one month's notice to vacate the property. Terms will be dictated by the tenancy agreement. Under the same Act, a non-paying tenant can be evicted after four months.

Before signing a lease, try to find out whether the landlord is looking for a long-term tenant. Annabel Barnes, senior manager at Chittons London Residential Agency, says: "Make sure your agent knows if you are looking for a long let. A lot will depend on whether the property is an investment or the owner's own home. If a landlord is looking for some quick money while trying to sell the property, that is not what you are after. A lot of people who buy for investment are very happy to let for a year or even longer."

Trouble-shooting

To avoid any nasty shocks, make sure everything is spelled out in the tenancy agreement from the beginning. If there is a garden, establish who is responsible for its maintenance. If the flat is furnished, ask who pays the contents insurance.

Tenants rarely have the freedom to decorate their homes, even when those homes are unfurnished. Tenancy agreements allow for standard picture hooks to be used, but the tenant is required to repair any damage. Wear and tear is allowed, but most tenancy agreements state that tenants are obliged to leave a property in the same state in which it was entered.

Paying too much rent?

If you think your rent is excessively high, you can apply to have it assessed by a rent officer, in accordance with the Rent Act of 1977. The landlord cannot prevent an

RENTING PROPERTY			
2 Bedroom Flat - Rental			
Estate agent admin' Fee	£250.00	Finchley	£250.00
£15k Contents Insurance	£184.50	£123.15	
Rent	£145.00 week	£385.00 month	
Council Tax	£738.47	£598.44	
TOTAL	£3373.92	£5702.62	
3 Bedroom House - Rental			
Estate Agent's Fee	£352.88	Finchley	£352.88
£30k Contents Insurance	£283.36	£179.61	
Rent	£750.00 month	£450.00 month	
Council Tax	£881.53	£364.91	
TOTAL	£10,187.77	£984.52	

BUYING PROPERTY			
2 bed flat at £20k (mortgage at 7.5% over 25yrs: £468 gross; £438.04 net)			
Buildings Insurance	£108.40	Finchley	£108.40
Stamp Duty	£184.50	£123.15	
£15k Contents Insurance	£184.50	£123.15	
Stamp Duty	£184.50	£123.15	
Valuation	£175.00	£175.00	
Council tax	£598.44	£738.47	
Water rates	£243.00	£207.50	
Mortgage (monthly, net)	£438.04	£438.04	
TOTAL	£7383.91	£7411.38	
3 bed house at £120k (mortgage at 7.5% over 25yrs: £781 gross; £751.04 net)			
Buildings Insurance	£147.50	£89.67	
Stamp Duty	£283.36	£179.61	
£30k Contents Insurance	£283.36	£179.61	
Stamp Duty	£283.36	£179.61	
Valuation	£175.00	£175.00	
Council Tax	£881.53	£364.91	
Water Rates	£243.00	£207.50	
Mortgage (monthly, net)	£751.04	£751.04	
TOTAL	£11922.97	£11828.17	

* Post codes: Finchley, N3 1AA, Manchester, M27 1AA.
NB. On a flat, the buildings insurance would be part of a policy arranged by the landlord. Ground rent is hard to calculate as it varies from lease to lease and property to property. It is usually 0.01% of the property value.
Source: John Chittons, Mortgage Information Winkworth, London rental figures Karen Hume, Manchester rental figures

application and the assessed rent will become the maximum payable, even if you had agreed to pay more.

Hope at hand

No one should be deterred from buying a property if they find a genuine bargain. And if you are one of the many people trying to cope with

negative equity, there is some hope. Banks and building societies are being forced to become much more flexible with their borrowers who are struggling with the problems of negative equity.

The Which? Guide to Renting and Letting is a useful source.

KAREN ZAGOR

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Norway — land of mountains, fjords and good investment opportunities, according to NatWest Securities' team

When Robin Angus says that he is more excited about the prospects for investment trusts than he has been for years, investors should take note.

Trusts excite NatWest team

What particularly stirs the imagination of the NatWest Securities analyst in this year's *Investment Trust Annual*, published yesterday, is the variety now available among the 332 listed investment trusts and the sheer inefficiencies apparent in the running of many of them. Harnessing together these two themes provide promising investment opportunities.

In the book's look ahead section, Mr Angus, and Hamish Buchanan, a fellow director, say the investment trust sector is "burning over with opportunities. High discounts once meant rubbishy trusts. But these days they can also signal unrecognized values. There will be a steady stream of useful profits to be made from exploiting such market inefficiencies."

The new issues that have

dominated investors' thinking over the past few years will be replaced by restructurings, mergers and bids from within the sector itself. New issues are often so small these days that they merely add to the "tail of the tadpole" in the sector and liquidity for larger investors who want to deal in the shares is minimal.

To start the search for value within investment trusts it is necessary to look at the sector as a whole and in doing so discard some of categories that are not suited to your portfolio or ones that need more research before committing your money. Of the 332 trusts in existence only 101 were around in their present form ten years ago. Collectively they offer a

"lucky dip". Mr Angus says of Foreign & Colonial, the oldest and one of the largest trusts, "I wouldn't rush to sell it but at these levels I wouldn't buy it unless it did something I couldn't resist in the form of an investment initiative."

Martin Currie's Scottish Eastern represents "good sound value" while British Empire Securities, Monks and English & Scottish all receive honourable mentions. As a house view, the NatWest team is bullish of the US on a 12-month outlook and "even more bullish" of a hedged exposure to Japan. Those tipped as strong "buys" include Dundee Worldwide, Kleinwort Overseas and Fleming Overseas. In Europe NatWest is most bullish about Norway, France and Italy. Those best placed to exploit these markets are Fidelity European Values, which has a high exposure to Norway, Paribas French, Second Market and Schroder Mediterranean.

Turning to his annual

Money to learn about money

ON the grounds that you are never too young to start saving, the unit trust industry is backing an educational competition to encourage schools and colleges to teach their pupils about money management (Robert Miller writes).

ProShare, the non-profit-making organisation that promotes share ownership, has teamed up with the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUTIF) to promote a Personal Finance Education Award 1996 with a top prize of £1,000. Second and third places will win £500 and £250 respectively.

The new award follows the recent



launch of ProShare's *Your Money - Be Wise* guide, which is a curriculum-linked manual for teachers "to help them to bring personal finance management alive in the classroom" says Gill Knott, ProShare's chief executive.

adds: "All young people need to understand the basic issues surrounding money management."

"For example, they need to be able to write a cheque, to understand about interest rates, to manage a budget or to know about deductions from their earnings."

Philip Warland, director-general of Audit, says: "Careful money management can make an enormous difference to your quality of life. Where better to start developing those skills than in school?"

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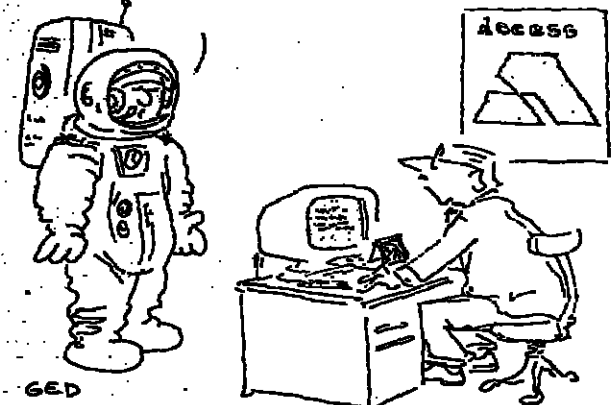
Worry of former flexible friend

From Mr R.J. Behenna
Sir, I would like to add my contribution to the previous correspondence about credit cards. I received from Access in March 1995 an account for ferry charges to the Isle of Man for £237.00. As I do not possess an Access card, the procedure as noted was followed.

My card had been stolen three years previously and my account was closed — or so I thought. The recipient of my telephone call freely admitted that no card had been issued to me on my new account and that the matter would be referred to their security people. Numerous phone calls and letters were written all at my own expense and time, to stimulate action.

After three months, my account was credited but no

you may not have heard... I was out of the country when these purchases were made



apology or recompense received. Security within the credit card industry needs tightening — cards with photographs — which was suggested 20 years ago but

rejected, I believe, by banks because of the cost. Yours sincerely, R.J. BEHENNA, 52 Paxton Road, Chiswick, W4.

Unfair tax bill for my children

From Dr D.C. Doughty

Sir, I have read an article in *The Times* by Graham Serjeant (October 9, 1995) about the Tories' need of a new vision to cut dogma and taxes. May I please, again, draw your attention to one piece of legislation which has been in existence for a long time and which, to me at any rate, is the source of much resentment. It is called an Interest in Possession. I had never heard of it until my wife and I came to re-draft our wills.

It seems that as I have benefited from a legacy which my late aunt left me in the 1950s, as a life interest, in which I receive the income during my lifetime, but not the capital which then passes elsewhere on my death, my estate has added to it the capital sum from which this income is derived.

This means that if my dear wife dies before me, God forbid, then my three children face a tax bill on my death of nearly £100,000 on my estate of £300,000, since the notional 'interest in possession' adds over £100,000 on top.

I think this whole concept is quite outrageous since I have paid income tax, surtax, and investment income surcharge during my working life. My heirs will be taxed on an asset they do not possess.

Yours sincerely, DOUGLAS C. DOUGHTY, 21 Dundale Road, Tring, Herts.

Proposed General Accident transfer leaves questions unanswered

From Mr A. White
Sir, No doubt many policyholders with Provident Mutual have during the last 14 days been reading the 82-page document providing information on the proposed transfer of business to General Accident. Linked Life Assurance, a wholly owned subsidiary of General Accident plc (Weekend Money, October 21).

Although PM's policyholders have been provided with technical detail and financial information, they are asked to rely upon assertions of their directors supported by some data from the actuaries acting for the separate companies. Kleinwort Benson was retained to advise PM's directors but no details have been released on advice they received. Several matters give rise for concern:

- Steps by directors to find other partners or solutions have not been fully presented.
- The £20 million figure given for the cost of cutting back operations is not substantiated.
- The actuaries' reports are based on the accuracy of the information supplied by Provident Mutual.
- Two executive directors receive between them nearly £520,000. Two other directors receive directorships at GA.
- GA is paying £170 million, a 17 per cent premium to Provident Mutual for its embedded value of £145 million.

GA shareholders acquire: □ Long-term admissible assets of £4.7 billion (as at December 31 1994) □ An immediate entitlement to 10 per cent of future distributed profits □ Enhanced earnings per share over the next three years, says PM's annual return to the DTI, under the Insurance Companies Act 1982 for the year to December 31, 1994; there are declared additional reserves for further future bonuses of £56m. Bonuses paid out of this reserve will generate transfers to GA holders on the same basis as other distributed profits.

□ An important presence in the UK pensions market, with an immediate acquisition of the whole infrastructure, plus intellectual property to transact future business on a profitable basis.

□ From the £170 million being offered for Provident Mutual's business, £25 million is intended to "sweeten" the deal for existing policyholders. The sum represents approximately £100 fixed per policyholder as at September 27 1995 and is payable over a three-year period. However, upon the transfer being approved in the High Court (January 1 1996), the policyholders will have to surrender their voting rights.

The paltry sum offered, the length of time stipulated to receive the fixed benefit and

the loss of immediate voting rights, must call into question the directors' judgment in the proposed transaction. If policyholders feel that the terms on offer are inadequate, they should make their views known to the board on the Freephone line (0800 413910), or attend the EGM on November 15 (or appoint a proxy) to vote on the special resolution which must be supported by a majority of 75 per cent before the bid can go ahead.

Yours faithfully, ARTHUR WHITE, 5 Woodknoll Drive, Chislehurst, Kent.

Confusion for N&P's qualifying savers

From Mr O. Beuselinck
Sir, The documents issued to "two-year qualifying savers" by National Provident seem, witheringly or otherwise, more confusing than helpful in explaining their position.

It seems although they refer to various dates ("balances on April 25 1995" and "vesting date") that:

1. The only safe course to retain one's entitlement is to maintain one's April 25 1995 balance.
2. There is no point in further investing as this will not yield better benefits since only the lower of the two figures seems to be relevant.

If both figures are relevant

could we be told? Or have I missed something which these very vague documents may have said or purported to say, rather more clearly than "We may with or without prior announcement include further dates at which your branches will be assessed. If so, this could be any date up until the date the transfer of N&P happens — planned to be in late summer 1996".

Surely if there is to be a further benefit we should be told now.

Yours sincerely, OSCAR BEUSELINCK, Davenport Lyons, 1 Old Burlington Street, W1X.

BRITAIN'S ten million private shareholders are receiving special offers to spur them to become more active.

NatWest is tempting new customers with a "buy or sell two and get the next two deals free" before October 31. A customer dealing via NatWest's BrokerLine will be charged at the normal tariff 1.25 per cent for deals up to £4,000 with a minimum of £20, and 0.4 per cent on the balance above £4,000. The two deals must be a minimum of £2,500, and the customer will receive two subsequent deals free (maximum deal size £10,000) provided instructions to trade are received by close of business on December 29 but stamp duty is still payable.

Meanwhile, Sharelink (0121 200 7788), the telephone share-dealing service, has capped its commission charges at a maximum of £50 on all deals up to £75,000 until December 31 for its private investors. Charges will then revert to 0.1 per cent for deals over £5,000. Deals under £5,000 have a minimum £10 commission and the fee for the first £2,500 is 1 per cent. Investment clubs can get their first deal free (up to £75,000) and will not be charged administration fees for the first year.

Barclays Stockbrokers Ltd has a "One for One" offer on its Air Miles incentive. The bank's broker gives one Air Mile for every £1 of dealing commission charged to all Barclay

Special deals to spur investors

ShareDeal postal and telephone and PEPDeal clients until November 30. ProShare is offering readers of *The Times* a year's membership for £26, a saving of £2.95, which includes 10 issues of *The Investor* magazine, a free portfolio management system to enable private investors keep track of their investments and account to the Inland Revenue, a 24-hour telephone information service, providing share prices and details of new issues; a free copy of *The Private Investor's Guide to the Stockmarket* (worth £8.85) and special offers on investment-related products. Cheques should be payable to "ProShare", and the address is ProShare (Times Special Offer), 13B14 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5BQ.

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THE TIMES LONDON

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PLANNING & CONSTRUCT

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CHEMICALS

England casts shadow on European tournament

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IN THE weekend preceding the start of the inaugural European rugby union club tournament, the participating clubs await decisions on the distribution of the sponsorship money. They also wish to know whether England and Scotland, the two home countries who are not participating, will receive any financial share this year.

That decision comes up for review in Dublin next month and, though it seems illogical that non-participants should have a financial involvement, the question arises because England and Scotland contribute directors to European Rugby Cup Ltd, the company established by the five nations to run the tournament.

However much the organisers may emphasise that the involvement of television and sponsors is non-conditional, there is a clear expectation on the part of ITV that England — where the biggest viewing population

resides — will join in next season. It has laid out much seed money in the hope that the struggling plant that pokes its head into the world in Romania on Wednesday, when Constanta Farul play Toulouse, will blossom into a glorious commercial flower.

The sponsoring company for the tournament has yet to be confirmed largely because of a final decision on the naming of the winner's trophy. Not unnaturally, the company seeks to have its name attached whereas rugby interests have suggested the trophy will be the European Cup, sponsored by...

It is England's contention that the package can be made far more attractive by building it into a revised competitive framework and playing at weekends — possibly Sundays — which would also conform with continental habits.

The European partners would not necessarily disagree but England's apparently lukewarm support for this season has irritated them — as, indeed, it has England's

leading clubs, who would happily have joined in the inaugural event. The extent of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) grand design, however, may be known on November 8 when the conclusions of its study group are published.

In the meantime, England's clubs make the best of what they have: the eighth weekend of the Courage Clubs Championship. Dean Richards returns to lead Leicester after completing his two-match



Richards: makes return

suspension. Niall Malone, the Irishman, steps up at stand-off half against a Bristol side deprived by illness of Kyran Bracken, which leaves Ben Harvey making his league debut at scrum half.

Malone was selected in Ireland's most recent international squad, as was Christian Saverimuttu, the Sale scrum half who plays today at West Hartlepool, where he will be watched by Murray Kidd, another Irishman. Simon Geoghegan, displaced Adebayo Adedeji for Bath against Saracens.

Bath allow Mike Catt to rest his bruised ankle and Harlequins have refused to confirm which of their potential internationalists will turn out against Gloucester. Jason Leonard, an absentee all season, will travel to King'sholm, as will Paul Challinor and Will Greenwood, but they are by no means certain to play.

Leonard has been resting a damaged shoulder muscle but wants three club matches before taking his accustomed place in the England front row against South Africa next month — the slimmed-down squad for that match trains at Marlow tomorrow. If he fails a fitness test, Simon Brown will play, and Challinor and Greenwood stand by in case David Pears — who did not require an X-ray on his bruised shin last week — and Peter Mensah fall by the way.

Nick Greenstock, the RFU's young player of the year last season, has been championed at the bit since September waiting for a first XV game with Wasps. His opportunity comes at Orrell, where he replaces Aaron James at centre in a side desperate to steady the ship after the withdrawal of Newcastle's raiding party.

Hershiser draws on experience to rally Cleveland

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE
IN CLEVELAND

WHEN last we saw Orel Hershiser, he was lying face down in the dust, the victim of a pitching duel in the first game of baseball's World Series between his team, Cleveland Indians, and Atlanta Braves. In the days that followed, few experts had been able to resist kicking him while he was down.

But the old gunslinger was back on his feet on Thursday night. Having dusted himself down, he strode to the pitcher's mound and cut down the man who beat him last Saturday. Greg Maddux, probably the sharpest shooter in the sport, had pitched seven series in five. The Indians won game five 5-4, and cut Atlanta's lead to 3-2.

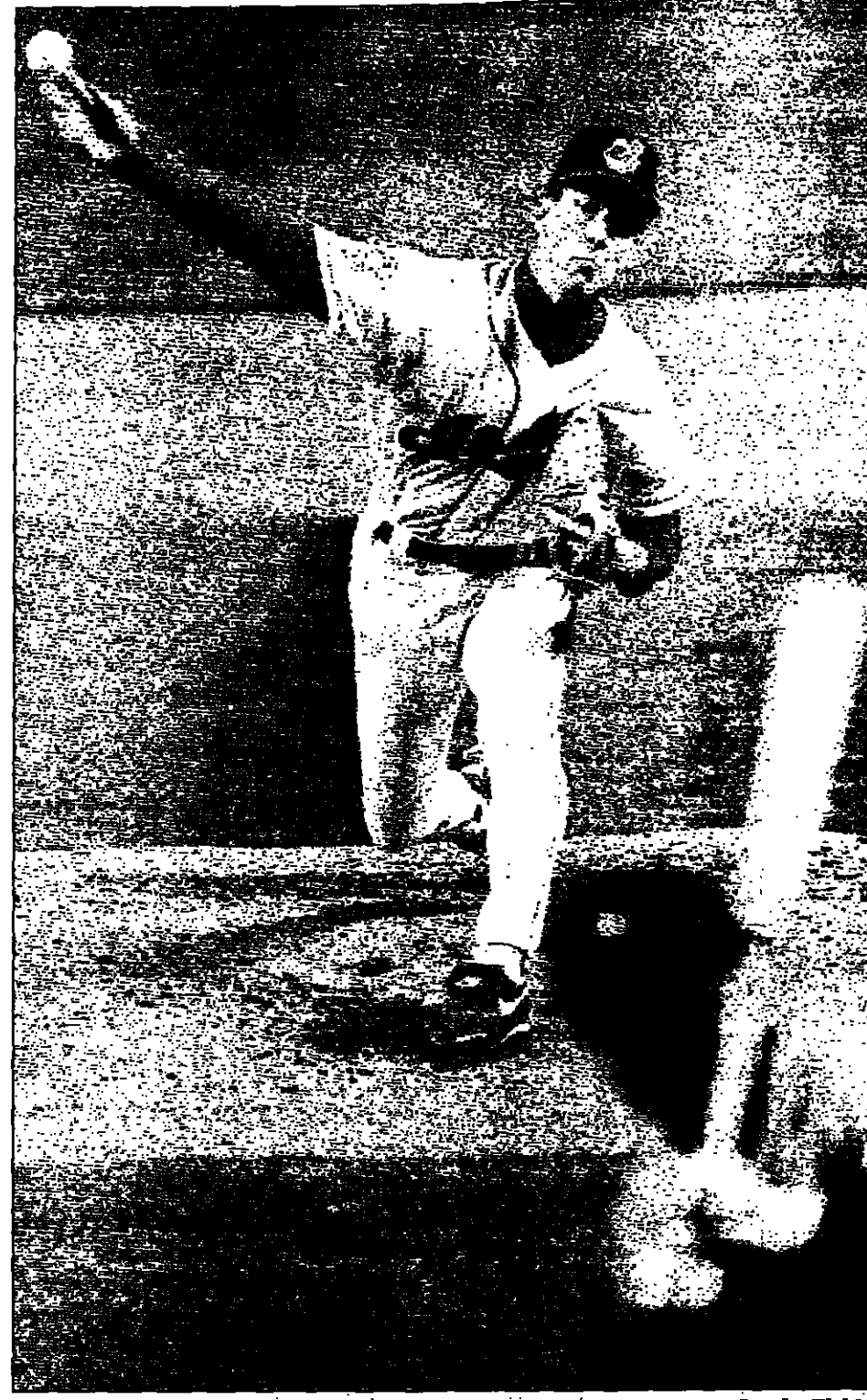
Much had been made of Hershiser's sudden departure in the seventh inning in game one. He said that he had taken himself out for the good of the team because he was losing control of his pitches. His manager, the gentlemanly Mike Hargrove, admitted that he had been "dumbfounded" by Hershiser's withdrawal.

There was a suspicion that the pitcher had grown frustrated and forgotten his obligations to the team. After all, Hershiser, 37, had no practice at losing, never mind losing gracefully. He had won his seven previous starts in play-off games and had once pitched 59 consecutive scoreless innings for the Los Angeles Dodgers, a Major League record.

Hershiser, who had grown used to being a hero, did not much like being cast as a villain. "It was the first time I had been involved in anything controversial in my career," he said. "It was important for me to get back out there and show the intensity and leadership I was brought here for, and not look like somebody who walked off the mound without the good of the team in mind."

He spent the hours building up to game five signing autographs, and walked to the mound "feeling the most peace I have ever felt before a big game". He then pitched the Indians to their do-or-die victory.

He received plenty of help. In the first inning, Albert Belle rang for the second time in two days, producing a two-run homer into right-field. The Braves pulled that back with an unlikely home run from the light-hitting Luis Polonia, a single from Marquis



Hershiser, Cleveland's match-winner, pitches against Atlanta Braves at Jacobs Field

GAME FIVE DETAILS

Team	Inning	Score	Runs	Hits	Errors
Atlanta	0 0 0 1 1 0 0 2 4	7	0		
Cleveland	2 0 0 0 0 2 0 1 X	5	8	1	

the crucial moment. "Grissom hit one as hard as you can and still the pitcher caught it and made a double play. Just two, three feet, either side, and things might have been different."

Grissom that scored Ryan Klesko. The Indians regained their lead when Jim Thome and Manny Ramirez singled in runs, but in the eighth, the Braves seemed about to rally.

With a man on first, Grissom lashed a pitch straight back at Hershiser. "It was headed straight for my gut," the pitcher said. "I stuck my glove out in self-defence and, thank God, I remembered to throw to first base." Those two outs ended the inning and Hershiser's contribution, but this time there was no controversy. It was time for the Indians' feared closer, José Mesa, to make an appearance.

Before he did so, Thome did it again, this time producing an immense home run into the centre-field seats to extend the lead to 5-2. It seemed like icing on the cake, but when Klesko produced his third homer in as many games, scoring Fred McGriff in the process, the deficit was reduced to one. The crowd, which had been merry creating a bell-ringing, Klaxon-blasting bedlam, was suddenly silent. Then Mesa struck out Mark Lemke to end the game, and the din resumed.

For the Braves, the agonising wait goes on. Their manager, Bobby Cox, reflected on

Maddux, who had been almost unhit since Saturday, had not been at his best, but there was evidence that the Indians had found a way to play him. Hershiser said: "Our guys have studied films, they have talked among themselves. They did not want to be the same team that lost to Maddux the first time."

Tonight, the Indians must work out how to hit Tom Glavine and force a decisive final game, also back at Atlanta, the next evening. Hershiser, meanwhile, can rest, knowing that his reputation as one of the great World Series pitchers has been restored.

Taylor misses match with Fijians

HEMI TAYLOR, selected to play No 8 for Wales against Fiji next month, will miss Cardiff's meeting with the touring side today (David Hands writes). Taylor has strained a leg muscle but Cardiff nevertheless field nine internationalists against a Fiji side anxious to erase the memory of defeat by Neath in midweek.

"It'll be a true challenge of amateur against professional," Brad Johnstone, the Fiji technical adviser, said. "Rugby for pride against rugby for dollars." That is, the Fiji have no-boys against the

Cardiff have, though whether the Heineken League champions regard themselves in that light is debatable.

Only two members of the Fiji party have been offered contracts in New Zealand rugby, which will only earn them substantial cash if they play in the designated premier competitions. The most established player is Paula Bale, the Canterbury wing, who plays against Cardiff in a team where the front row includes the massive 22st bulk of Billy Cavubati and the more modest 20st of the captain, Joeli Veitayaki.

Meanwhile, Western Samoa, who arrive in Scotland on Thursday to begin their 12-match British tour, have lost their powerful young wing, George Harder, to rugby league. He is the seventh Samoan to join league since the World Cup, in his case with Brisbane Broncos.

New Zealand play the first international of their European tour, against Italy in Bologna, today. They have sent for Carlos Spencer, the uncapped Auckland stand-off half, because of concerns over a leg injury suffered by Andrew Mehrtens.

Students take the professional course

David Hands hears an Oxford University debate on rugby union's new direction

THE youth, gilded or not, of Oxford University cast their vote in favour of professional rugby on Thursday night. In doing so they linked themselves directly to the debates which have taken place in England since August, when the International Rugby Football Board agreed to open rugby, and which will culminate in the Rugby Football Union's own special general meeting at the end of the year.

That those who voted by a ratio of 3-1 at the Oxford meeting were swayed by the quality of argument must be doubted. The strident tones of Stuart Barnes and Phil de Glanville in favour of professionalism were more than

matched by Simon Halliday's reasoned riposte and the affectionate backward glance of Frank Keating, of *The Guardian*, but the air was thick with anomaly. No one raised the obvious spectre that the standing of Oxford and Cambridge rugby, already weakened by the advent of league rugby, will be further marginalised by a professional game.

The greatest cheer of the night came for speakers from the floor who queried whether rugby under the ancient regime had really been so bad

anyway. But if Oxford accepted, in however confused a manner, that professionalism was here to stay, they did no more than say, Orrell's members who also gathered in open forum this week.

There was general agreement at Edgehill Road that professionalism was inevitable. Living cheek-by-jowl with rugby league, Orrell are more aware than most that any present threat to their players comes not from the 13-a-side code, but from their wealthier brothers in rugby union. Their management ac-

knowledge that the commercial operation of the club would have to be improved, knowing at the same time that all non-membership income will attract the attention of the Inland Revenue.

Back at Oxford, a South African voice brought the debate to its bottom line. Would money, Nico Basson, from Stellenbosch, inquire, help England to win the 1999 World Cup? Over the past century rugby has mattered more to the southern-hemisphere nations; they have understood the fundamentals of the game better, whether player or coach, and consequently they keep winning. Professionalism does not buy understanding.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

League Cup 3rd round

FA Cup 1st round
(1) Aston Villa v Everton
(2) Blackburn v Chelsea
(3) Leeds v Coventry
(4) Liverpool v Manchester City
(5) Manchester United v Middlesbrough
(6) Queens Park Rangers v North Forest
(7) Sheffield Wednesday v West Ham
(8) Wimbledon v Southampton

Endeavour Insurance League
First division

(1) Derby v Oxford
(2) Gillingham v Stoke
(3) Luton v Crystal Palace
(4) Millwall v West Bromwich
(5) Portsmouth v Watford
(6) Reading v Ipswich
(7) Southampton v Huddersfield
(8) Sunderland v Barnsley
(9) Wrexham v Sheffield Utd

League of Wales: 1st v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

BEACON HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division

(1) Cardiff City v Swansea
(2) Cardiff City v Swansea
(3) Cardiff City v Swansea
(4) Cardiff City v Swansea

League of Wales: 2nd v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 3rd v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 4th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 5th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 6th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 7th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 8th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

Second division

(1) Blackpool v Oxford Utd
(2) Blackpool v Oxford Utd
(3) Blackpool v Oxford Utd
(4) Blackpool v Oxford Utd

League of Wales: 9th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 10th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 11th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 12th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 13th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 14th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 15th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 16th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 17th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 18th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 19th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

First division

(1) Celtic v Aberdeen
(2) Celtic v Aberdeen
(3) Celtic v Aberdeen
(4) Celtic v Aberdeen

League of Wales: 20th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 21st v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 22nd v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 23rd v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 24th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 25th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 26th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 27th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 28th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 29th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 30th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

Second division

(1) Blackpool v Oxford Utd
(2) Blackpool v Oxford Utd
(3) Blackpool v Oxford Utd
(4) Blackpool v Oxford Utd

League of Wales: 31st v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 32nd v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 33rd v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 34th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 35th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 36th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 37th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(4) Llanelli v Ton Pentre, Llanelli
(5) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen
(6) Connors v Llanelli, Carmarthen

League of Wales: 38th v Newport

(1) Bryn Ferri v Porth Town, Caerphilly
(2) Porthmadog v Pen-y-Bont, Caerphilly
(3

Talented tearaway cleared to shoulder English expectation

There is an inevitable comparison here, one Goulding himself

that Goulding's journey down the road to ruin seemed a matter of destiny. Though he reluctantly played rugby union at school, well enough to be the scrum half on Kyran Bracken's stand-off for the famous 'Smashing Schools' rugby league was his first love. His father, Bobbie, supplemented a sporadic income as a labourer by playing for Hutton in the second division; his grandfather was a season ticket-holder at Widnes who died the very season his beloved grandson came to play for the club. Goulding looked up at his seat every home game and still wears the lucky cross his grandfather gave him. Goulding began playing at five years old, was mascot at Hutton one week, on the terraces at Widnes the next. Rugby league came naturally to him, too naturally for his own good. His early career was like a *Keystone Cops* chase, all speed and no control.

Financial restraints meant that both Davies and Goulding had to go soon after and when Goulding

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

A near-spotless disciplinary record as captain of St Helens and a greater understanding of the odds behind the scrum have encouraged the belief that Goulding's reform extends further than the misspelling of his Christian name. Bobby the hothead has become Bobbie the England scrum half and his smile as much the trademark of the host team as his delicate chin over the heads of

opposing wings. Both have a hint of mischief about them. So, always, will Goulding. It is what marks him out from the ordinary, makes him potentially the face of a bright, summery future for rugby league and the game's biggest liability. A coin has two sides and England's fate could rest on which face Goulding presents on his biggest stage yet. Like Gascoigne, Goulding is desperate to please. With luck, he will please a whole nation this afternoon.

Flying Schumacher refuses to soft-pedal

Schumacher is relentless. He could have been excused for relaxing after securing his

Schumacher produced a last-minute flying lap to finish more than 0.6sec ahead of Hill, who was second fastest, and serve notice that Nigel Mansell's record of nine victories in a season is within his grasp. He has eight so far. "It is a trademark of Michael's

that he always manages to pull out something extra, so you just have to go back to your reserves and find something extra yourself." Hill said.

It seems there is more to come from the world champion, too. He is keen to crown his stay with Benetton by helping them to win the constructors' championship and is in no mood to let up. "I'm very happy," he said. "I think there is potential for improvement in the car and I believe we can be quicker tomorrow."

"Now that the drivers' title is won, I will feel more free to push a bit harder and fight closer with my rivals without

the fear of going out of the race early. I am looking forward to Sunday a lot. It should be easier for me to win races now." Victory for him here would secure the second title for his team.

The margin of Schumacher's advantage soured Hill's mood temporarily, but eventually he saw the funny side of his afternoon's travails. "On my first set of tyres I had a problem with the car running too low," he said, "so my backside got roasted. The car was running on the ground and it was getting hotter and hotter. At first it was quite comfortable, but then it started to hurt."

The beginnings of an end-of-term atmosphere are already beginning to seep through the paddock. Only two races remain, and yesterday was dominated as much by rumours about drivers' destinations next year as by action on the track.

The idea of Williams attempting to swap Hill for Gerhard Berger has already been floated and discounted. Yesterday, it was Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the Sauber-Ford driver, for Hill, and that was discounted, too.

Next, Pedro Diniz, the Brazilian who has been anchored near the back of the field all year in his Ford-Ford, was

When a simple desire for victory turns into lust

IT SEEMS at least a week since this column last pondered the connections between sex and sport, so it is high time we got on with it again. Results have just come in from a significant piece of scientific research carried out at the football World Cup final in the United States last year, in which Brazil beat Italy.

Supporters of both teams submitted to saliva tests before and after the game. The results show that, after the game, the testosterone level/sex drive of Brazilians had increased, by 27.5 per cent; that of the Italians had fallen, by 26.7 per cent.

These results were summed

scored a memorable success by recruiting the services of Tina Turner. The sport of Australian No Rules Football has gone one better. They have taken on George Burns, the American alleged humorist who will, if he is saved, turn 100 next year. By one of those Nostradamian coincidences, the sport of Aussie Rules will pass the same marker. A television commercial has been made featuring Burns and a group of girls dancing about in exiguous

successive balls. However, an umpiring decision that you can perhaps help with: in another match, the umpire signalled one run short. Nothing outstanding in that, except it was a single to start with. Can anyone explain how that can be? The explanation is perhaps dependent on what the umpire had for lunch, but I await questions.

Jump start

I am also pleased to report that one of the oldest friends of this column, Tim Ashburner, the father of British ski jumping, has been seen at it again. The British ski jumping team is at rest after the retirements of its leading lights, but Ashburner writes to tell me that this has not prevented James Ormond from performing the longest jump on skis managed in this country. It took place at a Geländesprung championship, which is ski jumping on Alpine skis, in Scotland. It beats the record of 34.5 metres, set at the great Wembley Ski Jumping Show, in 1961, by — great trivia question — Torger Brattnæs.

Cheap trick

As the wages of Premiership footballers continue to spiral out of control, we should look to the United States for sanity. Take the recent negotiations between "Neon" Deion Sanders and the owner of the Dallas Cowboys, Jerry Johnson. Sanders was acquired as a free agent from the San Francisco 49ers; he is scheduled to make his first appearance for the Cowboys tomorrow. Because of the National Football League's salary cap restrictions, Sanders, a man known for the austerity of his lifestyle, has agreed to accept the minimum salary over the next three years—\$178,000 (about \$120,000). It is an example to us all in these times of greed. Mind you, Sanders is getting a significant fee—of \$13 million.

[illegible]

Finally, Eddie Jordan, the Jordan team owner, was told that his Irish driver, Eddie Irvine, who will join Ferrari next year as a team-mate for Schumacher, had said he could win the Japanese Grand Prix after qualifying seventh yesterday. "Did he say in which car and which year?" Jordan asked.

Banger and dash

Some see this as a piece of monumental vulgarity. I prefer to see it as a biting satire on contemporary mores: a dynamic and thrilling statement of the nature of our society. This is the promotional stunt of Sara Lee hot dogs, who have become "official packaged meat sponsors" of the Coca-Cola Sportsfest, aka the Olympic Games, which will be held

They celebrated this giant step for humankind with the creation of a fake sausage 1,996 feet long, which was wrapped twice around the inside of the Georgia Dome football stadium, where Olympic events will be held. The sausage was laid on a bed of several thousand stale buns: a timely warning to the Third World about the crushing burden of over-consumption. Then, with trumpets blaring, a runner made a dignified circuit of the field, squirting mustard over the hot dog at every stride.

No joking

What film star would you choose as the figurehead of a promotion for one of the brashest, hardest and toughest sports in the world? Australian rugby league once

Male starts favourite

JAMES MALE, of Britain today begins the defence of his world rackets title against his compatriot, Neil Smith (Sally Jones' writes). The first leg of the two-stage challenge is being played in Chicago.

It is third time lucky for the event, which has twice been postponed because of injuries to competitors, first when Smith, 31, was almost blinded in one eye after a training

accident in August 1994, and then when Male injured a knee during a match last March.

Male is the slight favourite, having hit top form in training with the former world champion, Willie Boone, although he is aware of Smith's weight of shot and fluency, particularly on the Chicago court where he was professional until 1992.

Calzaghe's mettle to be tested

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

JOE CALZAGHE, who is being tipped to be an even more exciting super-middle-weight than Nigel Benn, tonight takes his first step on the road which could lead to boxing fame and fortune. The unbeaten Welshman challenges for the vacant British title at the Albert Hall on a bill headed by Billy Schner, the Luton lightweight, who defends his Commonwealth title against Ditau Molevane, of South Africa.

Calzaghe's opponent is Stephen Wilson, of Edinburgh, also a new face on the championship scene and just as determined to make his name. They are well matched. Calzaghe has had 13 contests, Wilson 12, losing only one of them on a cut-eye decision.

As an amateur, Calzaghe

won ABA titles at welterweight, light-middle and middle and as a professional, in the care of Terry Lawless and Mickey Duff, he has won all his 13 contests, 12 of them inside the distance, eight of those in the first round.

If Calzaghe can also dispose of Wilson inside the distance, or even outbox the Scot well, it will be an impressive start on the road to higher honours.

Calzaghe is a two-handed, non-stop fighter. Yet he might find Wilson difficult to overwhelm quickly. A year older than Calzaghe at 24, and slightly taller at 5ft, Wilson too was a good amateur. He won a silver medal in the world junior championships, the ABA middleweight title in 1990, and took part in the Barcelona Olympics.

Schwer, perhaps technically the best boxer in Britain, may have to go into the later rounds to regain his title. Although Molefeyane is 34 and probably past his best, he is experienced and awkward. As a super-featherweight he met good opponents in Dingaan Thobela, Tony Lopez and Gabriel Ruelas, but he could struggle against the heavier blows of the Englishman.

□ Lennox Lewis yesterday won a temporary High Court order preventing the World Boxing Council (WBC) from sanctioning a heavyweight title bout between Frank Bruno, and Mike Tyson. Mr Justice Evans-Lombe ordered that Lewis's injunction against the WBC should stand until the full hearing next Thursday.

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SPORT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 1995

GOLF 47

CONFIDENT WOOSNAM
INTO HIS STRIDE
AT VALDERRAMA

Touring team meet with Mandela's approval

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON
IN SOWETO

WHATEVER else they achieve in their lives, England's cricketers will remember October 27, 1995, as the day they met Nelson Mandela in Soweto. If ever they thought, as sportsmen often do, that the world revolves around them, they learnt yesterday just how insignificant they are. Yet, in another way, they discovered how important their contribution can be as unofficial ambassadors in a country that is changing before their eyes.

There is too much talk of history, but however you gild the lily this was an historic occasion. England's cricketers, taken by surprise when Mandela brought forward a

visit he was scheduled to make tomorrow, felt humbled when they were presented to him on the field an hour into the game against an Invitation XI, none more so than Devon Malcolm, who exchanged personal greetings with the President of South Africa after Mandela had done a circuit of the ground.

"Meeting him was one of those things you can't put into words," Malcolm said. "To be thanked by him for my own efforts was amazing." The other players shared his wonder, echoing the thoughts of Mandela's consort, Dr Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board. "He makes everybody think they have done the hard work, not him."

For Bacher, too, this was a

great day. It is in places like Soweto that the game will grow, as it is picked up and passed on from one black generation to the next. There are three black players in the team led by Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, and one, Geoffrey Toyana, is from Soweto. It will take time to get a black player into the national side but Bacher is not fretting. The vines are down and the grapes will follow, whether next year or in ten years.

Mandela was scheduled to visit the Soweto Oval — the only cricket ground in this township of some three million people — tomorrow, when he is addressing a rally at Orlando Stadium, two miles away. He changed tack when his schedule would not permit

SOWETO SCOREBOARD	
ENGLAND: First Innings	
A J Anderson c Rhodes b Strydom	58
A J Stewart c Cronje b Strydom	54
J P Crawley not out	56
R A Smith st Masikazana b Davis	4
G A Hick c Williams b Strydom	15
TR C Russell b b Pringle	11
M Watkinson b b Pringle	0
M C Lloyd b Pringle	0
R K Lingworth not out	11
Extras (c 9, lb 12, nb 14)	35
Total (7 wds, 106 overs)	285

him to fulfil both appearances, feeling that he "could not let cricket down".

England and South Africa have made uneasy cricketing bedfellows since 1968, when Dr John Vorster refused to admit an MCC team including the "Cape Coloured" Worcestershire all-rounder, Basil D'Oliveira. Yesterday

the old and new ways were aligned as Mandela welcomed England to the township where he used to live and whose name resounds round the world as a symbol of apartheid.

"Every match offers a great deal of satisfaction to each player," Mandela said, "and can unite players from all

countries. It speaks a language far beyond that of politicians. Cricket gives our young people the chance to measure themselves against the best sides in the world and today we can see the fruit of our labours."

When Vorster declared the MCC party to have been "selected by the anti-apartheid movement," Michael Atherton, the present England captain, was a six-month-old toddler in Manchester. Mandela was a prisoner on Robben Island, five years into a period of incarceration that was to last until 1990, two years before South Africa were readmitted to the fraternity of Test-playing nations.

As the two men shook hands yesterday morning, South Africa's very own Potemkin vil-

lage came tumbling down. Mandela had given his blessing to the first first-class fixture in a black township and even though many of the thousand or so children preferred to romp in the bleachers, the game's delights may in time filter down to them.

The Invitation XI had the better of the day after Atherton, who won the toss, had put on 163 with Alec Stewart for the first wicket. Atherton drove Strydom to mid-on and Stewart lifted the bowler to long-off when he was four runs short of a hundred.

Robin Smith was stumped by Masikazana, the black wicketkeeper from Eastern Province, who missed the game against England A two years ago because he was being circumcised in a tribal

ritual. Graeme Hick followed, caught at mid-wicket as he attempted to pull Strydom. At 250 for four England were in a comfortable position, but Meyrick Pringle then performed the fast-trick, having Jack Russell and Mike Watkinson leg-before and beating Mark Lloyd with a ball of full length.

John Crawley, playing because Mark Rampeakash had a stomach upset, made good use of his chance. Batting carefully, he ended the day on 56, scoring equally on both sides of the wicket. But this day belonged to a man who has crossed more formidable boundaries than those the cricketer knows.

Photograph, page 1
Leading article, page 1

England take final gamble on Connolly

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE RUNES have been cast and are promising. If not now for England, maybe never. Australia's 20-year grip on the rugby league World Cup has rarely looked as shaky as in the build-up to the final today at Wembley, the Kangaroos' least-favoured venue.

With the stakes so high, England decided last night on their biggest gamble. Gary Connolly, stricken by pneumonia a week before the tournament started and given long odds against any participation, was dramatically and covertly slipped into the starting line-up at centre.

In leading his side towards

own mind were not fully cleared until after training yesterday. "He is well and looks very fit. His defensive and attacking play can do a great job for us from the start, but we realise we will probably only get 50 minutes out of him," Larder said.

Nick Pinkney, another centre, is also on the bench as extra insurance should Connolly meet with mishap. Wembley is notorious for draining the strength of the fittest athlete. Nonetheless, Larder, throughout, has kept faith with Connolly's growing strength and determination.

"A few weeks ago I didn't expect to be anywhere near the tournament, but it's great to be starting such an important match. I feel fit and believe I can do well," said Connolly, one of five players with Denis Betts, the captain, Martin Offiah, Andy Platt and Phil Clarke, who were within reach of beating Australia in the 1992 final.

For want of one dropped ball and a missed tackle, that match was lost: the one fond memory of Wembley Australia clinging to, after losing the opening match three weeks ago to England, and to Great Britain there in 1973, 1990 and 1994. As the Sports Council heard the case yesterday for Wembley as the new national stadium, Australia and England were split between bulldozing and preserving the grand old crumbling pile.

"We like it and feel that as an international team, it's our home ground," Larder said. Bob Fulton, his Australian counterpart, has good cause to forgo praise of Wembley, but in defence of four defeats there, said: "The fact was that we went onto win the series in '73, '90 and last year, and in the one-off game when it mattered, we won there."

Barrie-Jon Mather, who reverts to the substitutes' bench, was the smokescreen put up in England's selection announcement on Thursday to try to disorientate Australia, although the doubts in Larder's

mind were not fully cleared until after training yesterday. "He is well and looks very fit. His defensive and attacking play can do a great job for us from the start, but we realise we will probably only get 50 minutes out of him," Larder said.

Summit of the world game, Phil Larder has not put a tactical foot wrong, so far. The meticulous England coach has weighed the gamble of playing Connolly, who has gone five weeks without a game, against the greater risk of omitting an individual with the capacity at his fingertips to turn an encounter as close as today's appears.

It is one of the reasons the world champions are marginal favourites, together with their accomplished progress after losing to England, and mental fine-tuning in surviving their scare by New Zealand in their semi-final. Fulton has no other option than to win, as this was the side considered best for the job. Lose and the opprobrium that would emanate from the Super League, whose players were ignored, would harm the Australian Rugby League (ARL) in the battle for control of the game in Australia.

Short of a compromise, Great Britain will meet a Super League-only Australia side on tour next October. Beating the ARL version would not diminish England's achievement in winning the eleventh World Cup. Australia's dominance of the competition has been interrupted twice, in 1960 and 1972 by Britain, winners of the inaugural 1954 tournament.

Whereas the opening game was claustrophobic and decided by uncharacteristic Australian errors, attack seems to hold the best form of defence this time. England's pack is too uncompromising for the Kangaroos to be lured into a



Betts, the England captain, welcomes Connolly, right, back to the fold as the players sample Wembley in the build-up to the World Cup final. Photograph: Marc Aspland



'Goulding is worshipped not just as a kindred spirit, but as someone who will somehow find a way of giving you your money's worth'

Portrait, page 46

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TODAY'S TEAMS AT WEMBLEY	
ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA
K Radford (Wigan)	1 T Brasher (Sydney Tigers)
J Robinson (Wigan)	2 R Wishart (Newcastle)
G Connolly (Wigan)	3 M Coyne (St George)
P Newlove (Bradford)	4 T Hill (Manly)
M Offiah (Wigan)	5 B Dallas (Sydney Bulldogs)
A Smith (Castleford)	6 B Fittler (Penrith, capt)
R Goulding (St Helens)	7 G Toovey (Manly)
K Harrison (Hull)	8 D Play (Sydney Bulldogs)
L Jackson (Newcastle Knights)	9 A Johns (Newcastle Knights)
A Platt (Auckland)	10 M Carroll (Manly)
D Betts (Auckland, capt)	11 S Menzies (Manly)
P Clarke (Sydney City)	12 G Larson (North Sydney)
A Farrell (Wigan)	13 J Dymock (Sydney Bulldogs)

Referee: S Cummings (England).
Kick-off 2.50pm. Live television coverage on BBC 1 (Grandstand) from 2.15pm.
Substitutes: B-J Mather (Wigan), C Joyce (St Helens), N Pinney (Kangaroo Cougars), M Cassidy (Wigan).
Substitutes: R O'Davis (Newcastle Knights), M Johns (Newcastle Knights), J Smith (Sydney Bulldogs), N Kossel (Manly).

physical confrontation, and England's back line too pacy to ignore. Here, the trickery of Bobbie Goulding, in harness with Tony Smith, running off the

forwards at half back, could spark the speedsters, of whom Paul Newlove is at his most predatory. England hold advantages in key positions. Andy Farrell's

creative impact is more pronounced at loose forward than that of Jim Dymock. Lee Jackson is in the form of his life at the cutting edge of the England attack from dummy half, a part filled effectively enough for Australia by Geoff Toovey, but who Larder feels is possibly compromised in his role-swapping in mid-match with Andrew Johns, the hooker.

Brad Fittler, Toovey and Johns are playmakers who England allow room at their peril. Out wide, there is pace aplenty, not least from Steve Menzies, the forward with a roving commission and the tournament's leading try-scorer. But, unlike Australia's sides of recent vintage, there is not about them the same feeling of invincibility.

Fulton, too, has conceded that England will never have a better chance. "It could come down to a bounce of a ball, a referee's decision here or there," he said. The fates narrowly favour England.

Captain Marvel ready for storybook comeback

Never mind Juninho, what about Bryan Robson?
Rob Hughes on a surprise for Old Trafford today



Robson: fit and willing

The master who underestimates his pupil is riding for a fall. When Bryan Robson returns to Old Trafford this afternoon, bringing with him his tenacious Middlesbrough team, fourth in the FA Carling Premiership, to play Manchester United, who lie second, he might just be preparing a surprise for his old mentor, Alex Ferguson. He may not be able to select Juninho yet, but he might select himself.

It would be the first time that Robson has performed at the ground since his 359th and final league match for United, in May 1994. Since then, putting into effect the management skills he learnt whilst observing Ferguson, he has guided Middlesbrough to promotion and now to the highest point in their history. Yesterday, as the bluff and counter-bluff between the managers began, Ferguson commented: "It will be nice to see Bryan. He'll get a tremendous reception, which is only right. The good thing is that,

while I predicted Mark Hughes would score against us at Chelsea last week, I can safely predict that Bryan won't score."

Oh no? Speaking hours after Ferguson, Robson said that with Nick Barry and Craig Hignett, as well as John Hendrie, requiring late fitness tests, he was contemplating at least a place on the bench for himself. Robson is 38, he has not started a match this season, he had not needed to make a single outfield change in the ten matches, only one of which Middlesbrough have lost, which have propelled his side so high.

However, one of his three centre backs, Derek Whyte, is out with a groin strain, and Phil Whelan will deputise. The task of the three centre backs will be to quieten Andy Cole,

Paul Scholes and Eric Cantona, just as efficiently as Middlesbrough have done in conceding just four goals all season. They have achieved six clean sheets, most of them in front of Gary Walsh, a former United keeper, and they have won their past five games.

But, if Robson, having captained United so often and having studied the youth team players such as Nicky Butt and Scholes, reckons to have an valuable insight into his old team, then surely Ferguson knows the man who played for him for eight of the 13 years Robson ran for United.

Indeed, Ferguson knows all about Robson; every bone he has broken in the service of Manchester United, every surging commitment that the player gave in pursuit of trophies. He therefore will acknowledge that to

have ruled Robson out today was an error, just as he knows that Robson means what he says.

"I know people might think it's a bit of an ego trip," admitted Robson when he said he might nominate himself for a place on the bench. "But I have to think if I can be of benefit to the team. I've played the last two reserve games, and my fitness level is not too bad. If other players aren't fit, then I could possibly play."

As a player, or manager, Robson is assured of a rousing welcome. Old Trafford may these days be dozed to visiting spectators — hence an anticipated 3,000 Middlesbrough supporters will watch the match on a giant video screen — but this is one visitor who will be applauded, and the one least likely to be emotionally swayed by his brief homecoming.

Spaniard joins City, page 47
Ferdinand's goal, page 43
Premiership guide, page 43

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GARDENING

How to grow your own big Hallowe'en lanterns

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TRAVEL

A cook's tour of northern curry country

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PROPERTY

Tee off for a luxury home on a champions' golf course

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Where to
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ceramics

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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 1995

OLYMPIC CHALLENGE: DESIGN A NEW ICON



This has been America's century. The automobile, flight, computing, rock music, movies, television and video, all the things that make our century distinctive, we owe to the enterprise and ingenuity of the Americans, even if they were not the original inventors.

Others have on occasions taken the initiative and made better cars, planes, semiconductors, written better songs and made better films. What no rival country has ever done is to create a popular fizzy drink in a distinctive package and make it, in the words of the Coca-Cola company's marketing strategy, "universally affordable, universally available and universally acceptable". If you

had to choose a solitary symbol of the American century it would be the Coca-Cola contour bottle, the most recognisable package on Earth whose simple curvaceous lines fire a short-circuit in the brain and you find yourself saying "refreshes you best" or "it's the real thing".

The distinctive vessel will be celebrated at an exhibition at the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, next July. A selection of three-dimensional bottles between four and six feet high will be displayed, representing the different countries competing in the Games. The bottles will be the product of a competition or commission from each country and, in Great Britain, the

Coke wants a British bottle.

Stephen Bayley explains why and traces the history of the 'real thing'

competition is being organised by *The Times*. Labelled the "Coca-Cola Olympic Salute to Folk Art", the competition is open to all British residents. (Details, page 3.)

To understand the origins of Coca-Cola you have to imagine Atlanta, an untidy railway town in the late 19th century, re-building

itself after Sherman burnt it down in 1864. Here, in all the bustle, fast food was invented. Commentators of the time, from Alexis de Tocqueville to Fanny Trollope (Anthony's mother) to Charles Dickens, all remarked on the temporary nature of America, of its insistent activity.

By the 1880s, quick-lunch counters were well-established in every town in every state. Men (it was still all men at this stage) would have a plate of beef or oysters while standing and arguing, light their cigars from a gasolier and move on busily to sow the seeds of the American Dream.

In this gun-toting world of shaggy entrepreneurs, John Styth Pemberton (1833-1888)

was not exceptional. Pemberton was an itinerant, experimental pharmacist, one evolutionary stage beyond a quack doctor, selling photographic chemicals, hair dyes, cosmetics, perfumes and dubious remedies, including Globe Flower Cough Syrup. He worked in an area where honest technical experimentation was scarcely discernible from charlatanism. Pemberton was not a successful man, but he was energetic and managed to keep out of jail; he tirelessly offered elixirs, syrups and cordials of uncertain provenance and even more uncertain character to soda fountains. We know

Continued on page 3, col 1



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2

CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

STAR TREK: THE EXHIBITION. Trekkies of the world unite: you have nothing to lose but your illusions. Although it meticulously fills in the technical and scientific background of the original *Star Trek* series, *The Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine*, *Voyager* and the seven films, the exhibition is not in the business of dispelling the magic. Mind you, the dummies displaying original costumes do look as though the original cast has returned to its native plastic, but the reconstruction of the control deck of the first *USS Enterprise*, the original props and futuristic gadgets from the early 1960s, provoke the *frisson*.

DEATH, PASSION AND POLITICS. Venetia Lady Digby may have died at the age of 33, but she packed a lot into her brief life. Her beauty was famous, her relationship with the alchemist Sir Kenelm Digby kept, like their marriage, secret, and her death, allegedly as a result of drinking "viper wine" prepared by Digby to preserve her beauty, mysterious. Retrospectively, Van Dyck painted her on her death bed and the picture has always been popular at Dulwich. This show brings to life the lady's history and the circles in which she moved. It includes a variety of other Van Dyck portraits and, on the art-historical side, explores the 17th-century tradition of the death bed portrait.

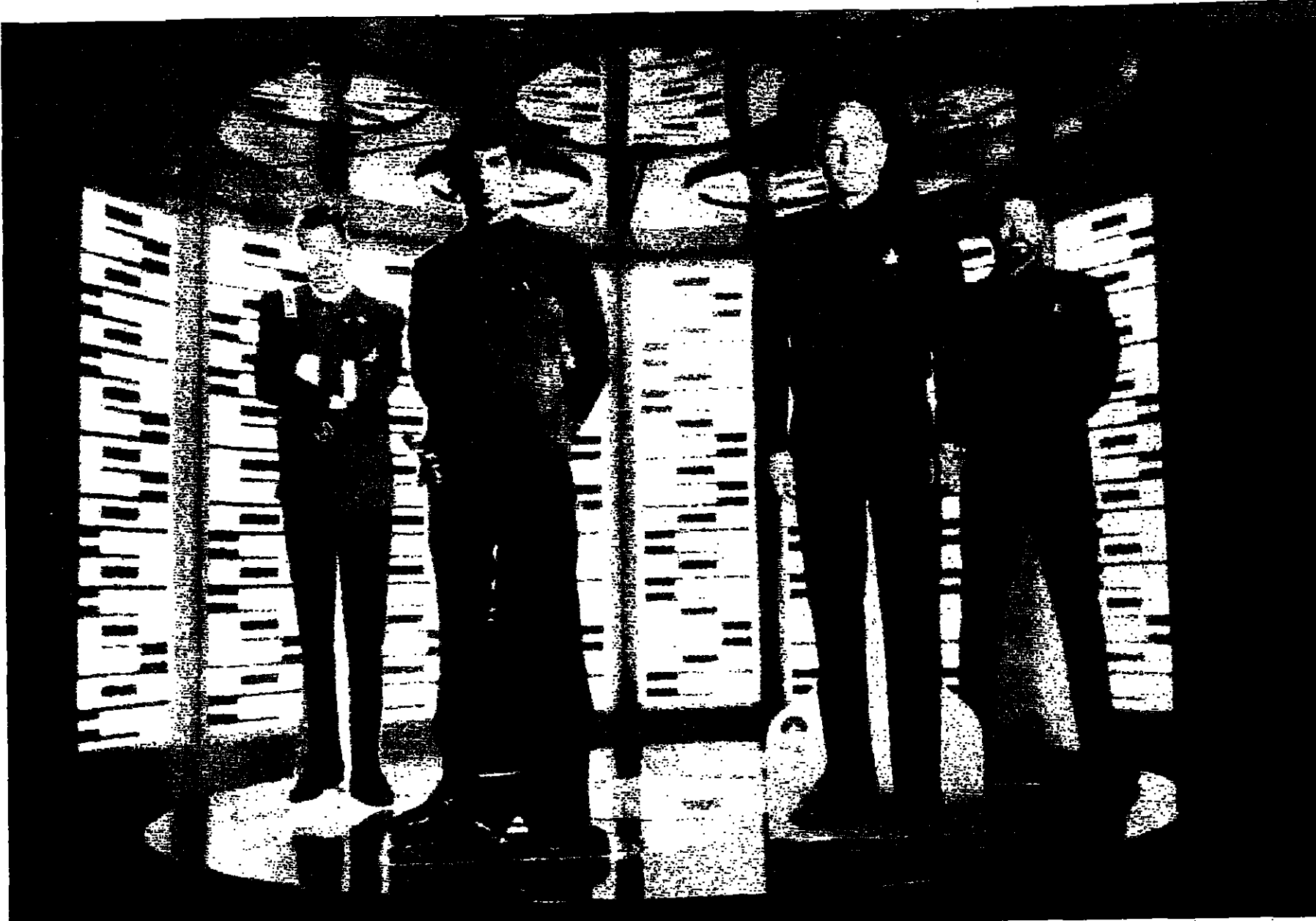
Dulwich Picture Gallery, College Road, London SE21 (0181-693 8000). Tues to Fri, 10am-5pm; Sat, 11am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm, until January 14. Admission £2, concessions £1, free on Fridays.

DANCE

John Percival

PAUL TAYLOR: One of the most enjoyable, exhilarating, original and stimulating choreographers America has ever produced brings his company for just four performances to Edinburgh — their only British engagement during a world tour. Show One (Wednesday, Thursday) has two of his greatest hits: *Aureole*, a lyrical piece to Handel music, and *Company B*, which brings to life the music and period of the Andrews Sisters. Two other proven favourites, the romantic *Roses* and the hilarious *3 Epitaphs*, are in Show Two (Friday, Saturday). Each programme also has two works new to Britain, from the mysterious *Spindrift* to the goofy *Sunny Papers*.

Festival Theatre, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh (0131-529 6000). Wed 1 to Sat 4, 7.30pm. **DANCE UMBRELLA:** A busy weekend offers DV8 on the South Bank (today until Monday), Merce Cunningham at Sadler's Wells (today and tomorrow) and Matthew Hawkins celebrating Purcell at the Riverside (today and tomorrow). Richard Alston's company has a new programme at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (Wednesday to Saturday), including a premiere to the many classic recordings of *Stardust*. Two exotic productions come to The Place: *Six Agbe Aye* (Tuesday, Wednesday), *Ariadne* from Japan (Friday, Saturday). At the Riverside are two British choreographers, Mark Baldwin (Tuesday, Wednesday) and Alena Collins (Friday to Sunday). **Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242).** 7.45pm: Sadler's Wells The-



Beam us up, Scotty: *Star Trek* veterans James T. Kirk and Spock await transportation at the Science Museum, London, together with *The Next Generation's* Picard and Riker

atre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-713 6000). 7.30pm: Sun matinee, 3pm: Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (0181-741 2255). 7.30pm: The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031). 8pm.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

VIVAT! VIVAT REGINA! Robert Bolt might have been better remembered by a revival of his *Man for All Seasons* than by the somewhat cluttered foray into later Tudor history which he wrote in 1970. Nevertheless, his dual portrait of Mary Stuart, who subordinated public duty to personal desire and perished, and Elizabeth I, who did the opposite and thrived, still has the power to grip and fascinate. Janet McTeer is impressive as a Virgin Queen simultaneously toughened and withered by the pressures of political life. **Mermaid, Puddle Dock, London EC4 (0171-236 2211).** Evenings: Tues to Sat, 7.30pm; matinees: Wed, 2pm; Sat, 3pm.

THE HOTHOUSE: Harold Pinter plays one of the funniest characters he has ever created: the paranoid, blustering Rook, boss of a government "rest home" where patients can be abused or killed with apparent impunity. The play, written in 1958, was suppressed after the failure of the stylistically similar *Birthday Party*. It finally saw the light in 1980, and can now be rated a minor masterpiece. Pinter has written more bluntly about political corruption, but seldom with such relish for its Kafkaesque absurdities. **Comedy, Panton Street, London SW1 (0171-369 1731).** Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.45pm; matinees: Thur, 3pm; Sat, 4pm.

BOOK

David Sinclair

RADIOHEAD: A band of Oxford-based graduates specialising in dark, psychologically-scarred art music. Their new single, *Lucky*, is out this week, an ironic title given that they had all their equipment stolen in New York earlier this month. They have a brooding stage presence, wonderful songs and a show which invariably produces a strangely uplifting effect.



Brooding presence: the uplifting Radiohead

Barrowlands, Glasgow (0141-556 5556). Oct 31: Town and Country, Leeds (01322 800 100). Nov 1: Manchester Academy (0161-832 1111). Nov 2: Brixton Academy, London SW9 (0171-924 9999). Nov 4: Rock City, Nottingham (0115 9342000). Nov 5: Corn Exchange, Cambridge (01223 357851). Nov 6: Guildhall, Southampton (0703 632 001). Nov 7.

THE HUMAN LEAGUE: The 1980s synth-pop message-to-trois

from Sheffield, missing, presumed sunk, since their last tour in 1987. Hardly the world's most dynamic stage act, although buoyant in the wake of this year's surprisingly successful comeback album, *Octopus*. A new *Greatest Hits* compilation is released this week.

Guildhall, Portsmouth (01705 824355). Oct 29: Colston Hall, Bristol (0117 922 3683). Oct 31: St David's Hall, Cardiff (01222 878444). Nov 1: Royal Centre, Nottingham (0115 948 2626). Nov 2: Manchester Apollo (0161-273 3775). Nov 4: Sheffield City Hall (0114 272 6444). Nov 5: Newcastle City Hall (0191-261 2606). Nov 6: Ring 0171-491 8100 for details of tour venues until Nov 15.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

BRUM MODERNS: The Birmingham Contemporary Music Group offer a virtuosic tour around the contemporary scene under the baton of Elgar Howarth. It includes the world premiere of a Chamber Concerto by Philip Cashian, perhaps unwisely placed in close proximity to Alban Berg's masterful Chamber Concerto. Works by the Danish composer Poul Ruders and Sir Harrison Birtwistle complete the programme. **Adrian Boult Hall, Paradise Place, Birmingham (0121-605 6666).** tomorrow, 7.30pm.

DAME MARGARET RETURNS: Although her fame probably rests with her Mozart opera performances, the great Welsh soprano Dame Margaret Price is a superb recitalist. In this Wigmore recital with the pianist Thomas Dewey, she explores the *Lieder* of Richard Strauss and of Hugo Wolf. Later this week (Thursday), in complete contrast, comes the Tallis Scholars

singing English sacred music from John Taverner to Purcell. **Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141).** Tues 31, Thur 2, 7.30pm.

GALLERY

Richard Cork

SEVEN STORIES ABOUT MODERN ART IN AFRICA: The most ambitious contemporary show in the Africa 95 season, this lively survey fills the Whitechapel



The Kenyan artist Etale Sukuro shows DDT at Whitechapel

Art Gallery with overwhelming variety. Each of the seven sections, devoted to a particular country, has been selected by an African artist or historian. Senegal stands out for its free-wheeling theatricality. The most disturbing rooms can be found upstairs, where the Ugandan and Kenyan sections are dominated by violence and suffering. But alongside all the anguish, hope and vitality can be found as well. The Ethiopian artist Etale Sukuro displays the most specta-

lar work, *Shrine for Angelica's Dreams*, which uses flowers, plastic soldiers, dolls and religious icons to celebrate women's aspirations and fantasies. **Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (0171-522 7888)** until November 26.

BIG CITY: A smaller African show at the Serpentine concentrates on six artists, and most flourish in their generous spaces. Cyprien Tokoudagba covers the walls of the biggest room with the assurance of a seasoned mural painter. Frédéric Bruly Bouabré's small drawings veer from savage conflict to visionary delight. But the show-stoppers are provided by Bodys Isek Kingelez, who thrives on improvisation, whereas Georges Adéagbé suffers from long-winded obscurity in his found-object installation. Seydou Keita redresses the balance with his observant photographs. **Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (0171 402 6075)** until November 5.

Clive Davis

JOHN McLAUGHLIN: Stand by for the return this autumn of some of the luminaries of the jazz-rock years. Stanley Clarke, Wayne Shorter and Al Di Meola are all due in London in the coming weeks. This weekend belongs to the former Mahavishnu Orchestra leader John McLaughlin, appearing with Free Spirits, a hard-nosed power trio with Joey DeFrancesco on keyboards and Dennis Chambers on drums. Another fusion veteran, Joe Zawinul, appears on the same bill with his group, the Zawinul Syndicate. The evening will end with the two bands joining forces. **Festival Hall, South Bank, London (0171-960 4242)** tomorrow, 7.30pm.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ■ Some seats available ■ Seats at all prices

ARTHUR SMITH: Performs his 42-minute version of *Hamlet*. Late night on three successive weekends. **Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-586 5125).** Tonight, Nov 3/4, 10.11, 10.30pm.

THE CABINET OF DOCTOR CALIGARI: Premiered at Nottingham, stage version of the German silent classic. Good seats, unearthly music, priceless dancing but a haunting performance by John Gielgud as Matthew Kelly's gleefully killing.

LYRIC, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-741 2311). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 7.30pm, mat today, 2.30pm. Opens Oct 31, 7pm.

DEAD FUNNY: Belinda Lang, Kevin McKelvey and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comedians and some of their best. **Swire, The Strand, WC2 (0171-436 8888).** Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 3pm.

EDDIE IZZARD: The quirky comedian returns for another season of surreal musings on the Shakespeare. **Shakespeare, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 (0171-379 5399).** Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm.

FUNNY MONEY: Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank notes in his latest farce. **Charles Drake** excellent as a sordid-lord-lord-lord. **Plymouth, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401).** Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 3pm.

HOBSON'S CHOICE: Leo Mullen in the role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. **Nicholas** McKeown and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law. **Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045).** Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat, 3pm.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Dillane's powerful production returns, with Nicholas Woodson as the all-knowing inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pair of pious. **Globe, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085).** Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm; Sat, 3pm.

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC: Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Southern's Swedish

channel. **Jerk Danc, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731).** Today, 3pm; Sat, 3pm.

MACK AND MABEL: The Jerry Herman musical set in early Hollywood where the careers of Mack Sennett and

6363. Phone box office for performance schedule. **Unit 10, Nov 4**

MARABOU: South Africa's *Yippee*. **National (Odeon), South Bank, SE1 (0171-829 2252).** Today, 2pm and 7.15pm.

THE MASTER BUILDER: Peter Hall's cozy version of Ibsen, with Alan Bates, Gerald James and Victoria Hamilton. **Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-530 8800).** Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Wed and Sat, 3pm.

ONE FLEA SPARE: Fascinating play by Naomi Wallace, set in 19th-century London where an assortment of clapped people break social and sexual boundaries. **Top class award.** **Dominic** Thompson directs. **Donmar Warehouse, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044).** Previews tonight, 6pm and 8.45pm; Opens Oct 30, 7pm.

THE PARK: Both Strauss's continuation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* into the present day, and the original, are being staged at the same time. **Donmar Warehouse, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044).** Previews tonight, 6pm and 8.45pm; Opens Oct 30, 7pm.

HAT IN THE SKULL: Tony Doyle and Rufus Sewell battle out the corners of Usher in Ron Hutchinson's gripping play. **Stephen Dillane** directs. **Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-636 5125).** Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

STRIKE: Strong and searing dramatisation of an excerpt from Hubert Selby's celebrated novel *Last Exit to*

Long Runners

Crash for You. **Prince Edward (0171-734 6851).** **Dead Gullies.** **Apollon (0171-494 5078).** **Dealer's Choice.** **Yardley (0171-836 9887).** **Five Guys Named Moe.** **Albany (0171-369 1700).** **Grease.** **Donmar Warehouse (0171-494 5044).** **Indian Ink.** **Adelphi (0171-416 6026).** **Les Misérables.** **Palace (0171-434 6303).** **Oliver!** **Palace (0171-434 6303).** **Starlight Express.** **Apollon (0171-494 5078).** **Sunset Boulevard.** **Apollon (0171-434 6303).** **The Woman in Black.** **Palace (0171-434 6303).**

NEW RELEASES

HAUNTED (15). Ghost sceptic Adam Ogin revises his opinions while staying in a stately home. **Leeds (0171-935 2141).** **Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141).** Tues 31, Thur 2, 7.30pm.

THE LIFE AND EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF PRIVATE IVAN CHONKIN (15). Pleasant satire about a Soviet soldier and Russia's military machine, but the film's time has passed. **Janet Murrell** directs. **Donmar Warehouse, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044).** Previews tonight, 6pm and 8.45pm; Opens Oct 30, 7pm.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR SCARF. **TATIANA:** Programmatic comedy about a woman who finds a scarf in her closet. **Donmar Warehouse, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044).** Previews tonight, 6pm and 8.45pm; Opens Oct 30, 7pm.

TO DIE FOR (15). See *Crash* for details.

UNDER SIEGE 2 (15). The Hard on a train, with an explosive star (Steven Seagal), a prison (Edo) Bogosian, and most tedious action (MGM Trancolor) (0171-434 0031).

ASSASSINS (15). Cat and mouse game between two contract killers. **Donmar Warehouse, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044).** Previews tonight, 6pm and 8.45pm; Opens Oct 30, 7pm.

THE BIG SLEEP (PG). Classic 1946 thriller with Humphrey Bogart as Philip Marlowe and a famously impenetrable plot. **With Lauren Bacall.** **Donmar Warehouse, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044).** Previews tonight, 6pm and 8.45pm; Opens Oct 30, 7pm.

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY (15). Best-selling romantic novel turned into a love story by director Claude Lelouch. **Donmar Warehouse, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044).** Previews tonight, 6pm and 8.45pm; Opens Oct 30, 7pm.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (●) on release across the country

BRAVEHEART (15). Overly blood-thirsty epic, with Mel Gibson as the 13th-century Scottish rebel William Wallace. **Donmar Warehouse, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044).** Previews tonight, 6pm and 8.45pm; Opens Oct 30, 7pm.

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SUZANNE BONNAR/IAN SHAW

Suzanne Bonnar is emerging as a rival to fellow-Scott Court Kidd. A singer blessed with poise and versatility, Bonnar performs with a group featuring the saxophonist Phil Bancroft and the pianist Chick Lyall. Ian Shaw is a stylist who is capable of caressing a Gershwin or Rodgers and Hart standard and then unleashing a Joni Mitchell song on his unsuspecting audience. **Bonnar: Queen's Hall, Clerk St, Edinburgh (0131-668 2019).** Fri 3, 8.30pm; **RSAMD, Glasgow (0143-332 5057).** Sat 4. **Shaw: Pizza on the Park, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5223).** Wed 1 to Sat 4, 9.15pm, 11.15pm.

Geoff Brown

IL POSTINO (U). Touching drama about a fisherman's son on an island off Naples, who discovers new horizons delivering post to the exiled Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. The British director Michael Radford keeps his style simple; he knows the film stands or falls by Massimo Troisi's wonderful performance as the shy soul who opens up like a flower in spring. **Barbican (0171-638 8891); Gate (0171-727 4043); Metro (0171-437 0757); MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148); Ritzy (0171-731 2121); Screen on the Hill (0171-435 3366).**

TO DIE FOR (15): Hip director Gus Van Sant sets close to the mainstream with this handsomely packaged and breezy satire on America's television culture, written by Buck Henry. Yet his iconoclastic spirit still pokes through as Nicole Kidman's small-town girl nearly stoops to murder in her lust for glory as a local television star. Razor-sharp performances all round add to the film's delight. **Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772); Chelsea (0171-352 5090); Haymarket (0171-839 1527); Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148); Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666); Mezzanine (01426 915683); Swiss Cottage (01426 914098); Ritzy (0171-731 2121); Screen/Green (0171-226 3520); UCI Whiteleys (0171-732 3332); Warner (0171-437 4343).**

Rodney Milnes

THE FAIRY QUEEN: At least once in a while passions nowadays. David Pountney's stately new production for the English National Opera of Purcell's theatre piece has infuriated as many as it has entranced — it is funny, sexy, romantic and, above all, theatrical, and as such a worthy tercentenary tribute to a great theatre composer. There is fine singing from Yvonne Kenny, Janis Kelly, Mary Hegarty, Michael Chance and Jonathan Best, and Nicholas Koch conducts a lively account of the score. Dream or nightmare according to taste. There is only one way to find out. **Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300).** tonight, Tues 31, Fri 3, 7.30pm.

GOTTERDAMMERUNG: Talk about inflaming passions: the Royal Opera's Ring production has even hit *The Times*'s letters page, and in the sort of violent anatomical language that shows just how intense those passions can be. But everyone agrees that Hainik has surpassed even his own past record with these performances, and that the cast headed by Deborah Polaski is marvellous. **Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-904 4000).** today, 4pm; Tues 31, 4.30pm.



Niklas Rådström's *Hilfer's Childhood*: Young Vic

Maaila Normand unfolds and clack. Fine songs, though a roudhouse book. **Paul** Kerrison directs. **Howard McGinn and Caroline O'Sullivan** in the leads. **Pleasance, Ganton Street, W1 (0171-369 1734).** Now previewing, mat Wed and Sat, 3pm 7.45pm. Opens Nov 7.

MAKING THE FUTURE: Three modern European plays on a Bosnian boy's life. **Helen's** childhood. **Odeon's** Prince. **Young Vic, The Cur, SE1 (0171-928**



Alicia Silverstone is *Clueless* in Beverly Hills

ambitious film from *Her My Song* director Peter Jackson, with an eye-gobbling Jim Caviezel as Jesus. **With** **Over Plot, Amy Leung and Leslie Carron.** **Warner (0171-437 4343).**

MORTAL KOMBAT (15): China and Korea make their love affair. **With** **Director, Paul Anderson.** **McGill's Trancolor (0171-434 0031).** **Queer: Kensington (01426 914666).** **Marble Arch (01426 914501).** **Swiss**

INSIDE STORY

3



Smart PR reinforced the "happiness" image of the Coke bottle, so that pictures of President Kennedy, film stars and the Beatles drinking from it simply confirmed a truth

Continued from page 1

the very day when this curious character stumbled across the cordial that became a phenomenon. On May 8, 1886 Pemberton is said to have recorded in his experiment book that he mixed water, sugar, the fluid extract of the kola nut and other "herbal extracts" which, to the chagrin of some, remain secret today. This cordial, a derivative of an earlier, unsuccessful Pemberton effort called French Wine of Coca, was unusual of its type in that it actually tasted rather good.

Pemberton decided that it had remarkable properties and soon characterised it as a "brain tonic", a specific for relief of "headaches, nervous affections, neuralgia, hysteria, melancholia".

It was Pemberton's long-suffering book-keeper, Frank M. Robinson (1845-1923), who had the happy inspiration of naming this brain tonic after its apparent chief ingredients, the coca leaf and the kola nut.

With one magisterial stroke of humble genius, he changed an initial "C" and a vicious goo became the basis of Coca-Cola. With a second magisterial stroke, Robinson wrote that Coca-Cola was "delicious, refreshing" and then, with yet a third stroke of genius, his careful book-keeper's copperplate handwriting was translated into that trademark, registered in 1893 to protect the company from imitators, such as Koke, Gay-Ola, Cold-Cola and Koca-Nola.

It was the initiative of putting Coca-Cola, hitherto sold over the counter in drugstores and soda fountains, into bottles that turned a local Georgia curiosity into a mass-market world phenomenon, although this epochal event in the history of capitalism was a slow train coming.

By 1910, independent bot-

tlers, the freemasonry of regional capitalists who helped achieve national distribution of Coke, tired of using whatever bottles they could find locally and decided they wanted: "A new bottle—a distinctive package that will help us fight substitution... We need a bottle which a person will recognise as a Coca-Cola bottle even when he feels it in the dark. The Coca-Cola bottle should be so shaped that, even if broken, a person could tell what it was."

In 1915, a competition was held among American glass manufacturers, including the Root Glass company of Terre Haute, Indiana, where a Swedish-born plant superintendent, Alex Samuelson, had the idea that a new, uniform bottle for Coca-Cola might be inspired by the drink's contents. He passed an image of the curvaceous kola nut to his mould-shop supervisor, Earl Dean, who produced a bloated prototype of what we would today recognise as the famous contour bottle, a design accepted by all the bot-

tlers when they met at an Atlanta convention in 1916. Six weeks followed in 1922. Despite revolutions in packaging technology and dramatically changing patterns of consumption and distribution, the Coke bottle remains one of the most readily identifiable symbols in the world. To cynics, a token of clodhopping American exploitation (what they like to call Coca-Colonisation); to enthusiasts, a pleasing symbol of the optimism of the American Dream. While our more decorous European cultures require a two-handed cup-and-saucer routine, drinking one-handed from an ice-cold bottle of Coke is a reminder that America is a nation on the move. You need the other hand on the steering wheel, or in your sweetheart's hand.

Until the Second World War, Coca-Cola was essentially an American product, but a global war presented this most

enterprising of businesses with a ready-made distribution network. The Coca-Cola company promised that every American serviceman in Asia or Europe or anywhere else should, for his nickel, be able to have a daily Coke military logistics created the structure of what was to become the world's outstanding brand.



Trendsetter: the 1915 prototype Coke bottle

After 1945, when the armies were withdrawing, Coca-Cola stayed.

To its marketers, Coke became a religion. You can extend the metaphors. The bottle was an icon, and the company staff and bottlers worked as an articulate and persuasive priesthood. The congregation was the world's population, who wanted to

believe in the scripture of the American Dream, preached to them by adroit advertising of simple, but persuasive, ideas. Significantly, a Coca-Cola company official said: "Basically, anybody can make a drink. Pepsi is not a terrible drink. The reason for our success is an accumulation of advertising."

After the pharmaceutical developments of the 1890s and the bottle design of 1916, the Coca-Cola story has been about advertising. Coke's first advertising effort was an oil-cloth banner in Atlanta which cost \$46. Since then, things have become more ambitious.

The Coca-Cola chairman, Roberto C. Goizueta, 63, is fond of quoting that other American pioneer entrepreneur, Dr Scholl: "Early to bed and early to rise, work like hell and advertise."

If advertising is a profession of faith, then that faith acquires its force through accumulation of imagery. From the 1920s to the 1960s, Coke's paid-for communication laid layer on layer of agreeable imagery on to the public imagination. The contour bottle was always shown in contexts of profound well-being—of jolly red Santa guffawing, of happy families with their barbecues, of beach parties, of games and all those other open-air rituals of care-free Americana. Through advertising, the presence of a simple bottle became a code for happiness.

Clever PR reinforced the image, so that photographs of Kennedy and the Beatles drinking from contour bottles simply confirmed a truth. So much so that by the 1960s when pop artists, including Andy Warhol, wanted to find icons to express their sardonic curiosity with modern America, they usually chose the Coke bottle.

But corporate America struck back from a different direction. Just as Warhol mocked Coke's status, the 1964 Ford Mustang introduced the

kicked-up tail-line, a styling cliché that became known as the "Coke-bottle look".

The creative challenge to Coca-Cola is how to extend the international appeal of something so quintessentially American. The answer here is "think global, act local". For a global company, the challenge is an international one: not only to persuade hipsters in Hampstead or the Hamptons to drink Diet, but to persuade Yurts and Kazakhs to forego coffee, tea and water.

The changing structure and style of Coca-Cola advertising reflect this. Today, nobody wants to sing exactly the same tune, no matter how catchy. In any case, now that there is more than one Coke product, more than one style of advertising is appropriate. Global campaigns are being complemented by advertisements to local needs and tastes. While once Coke used a single agency to set the style of global advertising, under Sergio Zyman (creator of Diet Coke) the company's communications budget is spent in an imaginative way, as needs must.

Zyman bypasses the conventional advertising agencies, and blurs the distinction between advertising and editorial: Hollywood's Creative Art-

ists' Agency, which packages directors and actors for making movies, has been producing Coke ads, just like the real movies. In Britain, Bartle Bogle Hegarty has been making ads aimed at local rivals, in this case supermarket me-too brands.

Coke is also involved in sports sponsorship, most spectacularly the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and, in British football, the Coca-Cola Cup.

Cynics scoff at the marketing effort, but the commitment is another way of saying that Coca-Cola has a culture. Statistically, people tend to choose Coca-Cola—another way of saying they elect to buy something they recognise. In that respect, nothing has changed: Coke still depends on a message of universal acceptability, but that message is delivered to diverse peoples in distinctive and different ways.

Who knows, if Coke had a bottle competition today the results might be diverse... but I doubt if they'd be better.

The old glass contour bottle is rarer now, preserved in silhouette on the side of drop-forged, recyclable aluminium cans or reborn in plastic. No longer a symbol of America, but of something even more interesting: the world's most successful branded product. Not bad for an old brain tonic.

TIMES/COCA-COLA COMPETITION

Win a trip for two to the Olympics

READERS of *The Times* are invited to create a version of the Coca-Cola contour bottle which reflects the spirit of their local community.

The designer of the winning entry will receive a five-night trip for two to the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, next July, plus £5,000, from Coca-Cola.

The winning design will also be produced by Coca-Cola to form part of the exhibition "Coca-Cola Olympic Salute to Folk Art" at the Games.

Five runners-up will each receive £1,000.

HOW TO ENTER

Entries must be supplied as flat artwork, either as photographs or illustrations. Photographic submissions (you may want to produce your piece and photograph it for entry) must not exceed 16in x 12in, and illustrations must not exceed A2 size. Your work should be easily recognised as a "Coca-Cola" contour bottle, with its defining features (shape, flues and ridges). Please use the design specifications detailed in the competition leaflet, available from Lynne Franks PR (see below). Incorporation of the Coca-Cola logo is optional.

All entries must be received at Lynne Franks PR, PO Box 4035, London W9 3ZW by the closing date of December 15, 1995, clearly marked "Coca-Cola Olympic Salute to Folk Art", with a sheet of paper giving a) your name, b) your permanent address and telephone number, c) date of birth, and d) college and course if applicable.

Works should be created, decorated or painted with local materials, using traditional techniques and featuring images that are indigenous to or symbolic of your community to represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games. A brief description of the work explaining its inspiration and cultural context should be attached to your entry.

All materials that would be used if your piece was produced in 3D must be clearly identified. Materials may be wood, marble, straw, textile material, shatter-proof forms of glass, or any material sturdy enough to withstand the journey to Atlanta, if selected.

All designs must be the original creation of the entrant, carried out specifically for this competition.

This competition is open to people resident in Great Britain and the Isle of Man, excluding employees of Coca-Cola Great Britain and Ireland, CCSB, their families.

agents or anyone directly connected with this competition. Entries will be judged by Stephen Bayley, David Driver, head of design at *The Times*, and a representative of Coca-Cola. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Closing date for entries is December 15, 1995.



Folksy look in wood by the American artist Howard Finster

The winning design will be exhibited in London early next year.

Prize winners agree to allow the use of their names, photographs and winning contour bottle design for publicity, advertising, promotional and merchandising activities in connection with this competition.

By entering the competition, entrants agree to assign copyright and ownership of entries to the Coca-Cola company.

All entrants will be deemed to have accepted and be bound by the rules.

Leaflets with the full list of competition rules are available by sending an SAE to Lynne Franks PR, clearly marked "Coca-Cola Olympic Salute to Folk Art—Rules" or by calling *The Times* on 0171-782 7155.

Ruth Gledhill joins prospective converts at a Reform synagogue

A warm harvest welcome



JUDAISM is not a missionary religion, so it was with some surprise that I found myself sitting in a "conversion class" at a Jewish synagogue, attempting to understand more about Sukkot, the Jewish equivalent of the harvest festival and one of three pilgrim festivals in the Jewish calendar. Maidenhead synagogue, a homely centre of worship, prayer and community life which serves diaspora Jews throughout Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, was founded in 1940 by members of London's Orthodox community. Although other Reform synagogues had been founded before, some by break-away groups from Orthodox, Maidenhead achieved national distinction in 1953 when it became the first community to change its allegiance en masse from Orthodoxy to Reform, a movement which began early in the last century and which attempts to fit Jewish laws and traditions to the modern world.

At the conversion class which preceded the sabbath service, I was seated next to prospective converts and their partners. Some partners were Jewish, others were not. Maidenhead does not actively seek recruits from outside Judaism, but according to Dr Romain is experiencing "a new and fascinating phenomenon" where people with no Jewish background and who are not married to a Jewish man or woman are choosing to convert. The synagogue has developed an "outreach" programme but this is geared specifically to Jewish people who feel cut off from their community.

According to Dr Romain, many Jewish people feel marginalised and drift away. As a result of his programme, the Maidenhead congregation has grown from 80 households to 510 in the last few years. Dr Romain has inspired other synagogues throughout the country to emulate what has become known as "the Maidenhead experience".

During Sukkot, also known as the feast of the Tabernacles, Jews are obliged by Leviticus 23.42, to build a

sukkah, a booth of branches and leaves which is decorated with fruit, and to live in it for seven days. This commemorates God's protection of the Israelites as they wandered in the desert for 40 years after the exodus from Egypt. In Britain the chilly weather means most Orthodox Jews instead eat a token meal in their sukkah after the daily evening service. During the service, we prayed in Hebrew and sang, also in Hebrew but

with an English translation provided alongside, the sabbath greeting.

Dr Romain, a well-known broadcaster and writer, preached to us on the mischief occasioned by superstition. He said Jewish people should not worry about the dangers of Friday 13, because this date relates to Christianity, when Christ sat down to the Last Supper with 12 people, making a total of 13.

Nor should they worry about the notion of the evil eye, the Aym Hara, goes back to Proverbs 28: "He that has an evil eye hastens after riches. But does not realise that what shall chase after him." Dr Romain told us how this developed into the notion that some looks can kill, and that a jealous glance can bring bad luck. "That in turn led to the tradition to play down one's good fortune lest it attracts jealous looks... and only a generation ago babies were covered in rags and called 'ugly' by their adoring mothers to prevent any malevolent wishes," he said. As I left, after a sumptuous meal in the sukkah, my eye was caught by a stunning, teenage girl with flowing black hair who smiled as her father said, in jest, "Look how ugly she is." I thought of the last words of Dr Romain's sermon: "If tomorrow a black cat crosses your path, yes, it may mean doom and destruction. But it may just mean that it wanted to get to the other side. It shouldn't stop you determining that when you cross someone's path, the result is that you bring smiles and laughter in your wake."

Maidenhead Synagogue, 9 Boy Hill Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 4ET. Tel: 01628 73012.

★ A one to five star guide to the service ★

- RABBI: Dr Jonathan Romain.
- ARCHITECTURE: Edwardian, in the style of a community centre in a comfortable suburb. ★★
- SERMON: Reassuring dismissal of superstitious myths, and a warning that "tomorrow does come". Dr Romain is without question one of this country's best contemporary preachers. ★★★★★
- LITURGY: Sabbath evening service from *Forms of Prayer for Jewish Worship*, the prayer book edited by the rabbis of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain. ★★
- MUSIC: Beautiful sabbath songs sung with evocative bass and top line harmonies by the congregation. ★★
- AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Lavish feast of bread and cakes under the stars. ★★
- SPIRITUAL HIGH: Enlivening, gracious and peaceful. ★★★★★



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Hi-sty technology beats satellites

Under the heading "Isn't it wonderful what they can do these days..." comes the personal satellite navigator. For under £300, this pocket-sized device will plot your position on the planet to within 100 yards. It does not matter if you are halfway up Everest or in the queue for Lottery tickets. It will tell you precisely where you are and, with a linking piece of gadgetry, give you detailed courses and directions to get you back where you started from.

It is difficult for us children of the 1950s, who thought Telstar was a marvel, to believe that a handheld machine can actually track satellites, but that is how these machines work. By measuring signals that pour down on us from space, the little box can follow our every movement.

The Global Positioning System, or GPS as it is called, has made an obvious difference to aviators, sailors and explorers, but farmers are using it, too. A couple of years ago, the first combine harvester to be tracked from space was introduced; not because fields are so large these days that farmers are getting lost, more because the yield

from precise points on the field could be plotted by computer and adjustments made when applying fertiliser the following season. It is not my style, but there you are.

Now, clever as all this might be, let me devastate you by telling you that, according to my observations, pigs have been doing this for years. I do not know how they do it, whence they get their signals, how they do the sums. But without doubt, the navigation system which pigs employ outperforms anything pouring down on us from outer space. The satellite boys can offer us an accuracy of about 100 yards; pigs have it down to a matter of inches.

This amazing observation came about as a result of the belated onset of autumn. It has taken some time coming this year, but finally the oaks have got round to shedding their fruit. Our orchard is now awash with windfall apples and acorns. Send for the pigs! I am afraid they have had a rather dreary summer on a flat



FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HENNES

and featureless part of the farm. I put them there with the best of intentions, because I thought there were still some potatoes lurking just beneath the surface, missed at harvesting time the previous autumn. But the searing summer heat caused the field to be covered with a hot, concrete-like crust which no pig's snout could pene-

trate. The undiscovered potatoes baked. Didn't we all?

The two sows, Polly and Alice, deserved a break, so last week we moved them. Alice, well-trained to following a bucket of food even unto the ends of the Earth if necessary, waddled along like a

faithful dog for the 100 or so yards from field to orchard. On arrival, she sniffed, truffled a little earth with her nose, which she usually does on arrival at a new home — her equivalent of kicking off her slippers. I suppose — and settled down for the winter.

Polly, the younger sow was not so helpful. Having spent the entire

summer carefully avoiding the strand of electric fencing which had confined her, there was no way she was ever going to cross the line where she believed it still to be. We took it down for a good half-hour beforehand, so that she could get the idea it had gone. But despite all foodie temptations put before her, she would arrive at precisely the spot where her navigation system said the wire had been, and would go no further. Not one inch.

In the end, we waited until she burrowed her snout in the food bucket, gave her a quick push so that she went well over the imaginary line, and then she waddled on quite happily.

But the most remarkable display of her navigational skills was yet to come.

through the gate. Polly came to a stubborn halt. Try to coax her on and she dug in her trotters, and squealed. Tempa her with more food and she would not be persuaded. She froze. We thought about this: wondered if her nose was detecting some strange animal scent of an enemy lurking, a fox, say.

Then we remembered. It was on this precise spot, almost 12 months before, that Robert and I had struggled long and hard to load Polly into a trailer to take her to her sty for the winter. The very same spot. To within the inch. The problem then had been that, although the electric fence had been removed and replaced with a trailer, to get in the trailer she had to cross the threatening, though invisible, line. Eleven months later, and heading in the other direction, she had remembered. Fantastic.

Which leads me to the conclusion that, clever though satellite technology may be, it has got nothing on pigs. If ever I am on an expedition demanding accurate navigation, I shall most certainly take a pig with me. They don't even need batteries.

A cash battle is on to restore much of the 70,000 miles of dry-stone walling in England

Threat to slabs of heritage

For a British champion Steven Allen leads a remarkably unassuming life. Nine hours a day, six days a week he strives to repair and rebuild the dry-stone walls of Cumbria. Being dry-stone wall champion means he does it better and quicker than most people.

Mr Allen is one of 300 full-time wallers among the 1,050 registered with the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain (DSWA). There are also many wallers who are not members. Whatever the total number, there is no shortage of work.

A survey for the Countryside Commission found that only 13 per cent of the estimated 70,000 miles of walls in England is in good condition, nearly two-thirds show serious signs of deterioration or are in the early stages of dereliction, and one-sixth are little more than remnants.

About 2,400 miles of walls were lost to the countryside between 1984 and 1990.

"This part of our national heritage will become a wasteland, utterly devastated within 30 years, unless we get the

investment," says Paul Webby, chairman of the DSWA.

The Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, which carried out the survey, estimates that the cost of restoring all walls to a "stock-proof and excellent condition" would be £3 billion. Half of this would be required for the most urgent repairs, the Commission says, adding: "Nobody is forcing farmers to rebuild walls where there is no longer any necessity for them."

Peter Allen, who farms 2,000 acres in Cumbria and is vice-chairman of the Less Favoured Areas committee of the National Farmers Union, says: "It is impractical and uneconomic to reinstate some of them."

Grants for repair and restoration are available in designated Environmentally Sensitive Areas, of which there are 22 in England, including the Lake District, North Peak, South West Peak, Coteswold Hills, Pennine Dales and Darroor.

Farmers who take up grants from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food must observe good conservation



Steven Allen, three times British champion dry-stone waller, with a finished stretch of challenging wall in Cumbria

practice. The wall has to be taken down to foundation level and £14-£16 per metre is paid. The cost of repairing a wall from scratch is about £15 to £35 per square metre, plus another £20 per sq m if the stone has to be bought.

There are also grants available through the ministry's Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme, and the Commission's Countryside Stewardship scheme, through which

being restored. These grants run at about £7.50 per metre for simple repairs to £12 per metre for full restoration.

When the ministry takes over Countryside Stewardship from the Commission next April the hope is that more money will become available.

"What we want is one, simple grant scheme which is well-policed so that there is no poor quality walling done," Mr Webby says. "We are lobbying MPs in upland areas to discuss increased aid with the ministry."

Alastair Davy, a hill farmer whose 350-acre farm in the Yorkshire Dales National Park is to pilot a national experiment in new management measures to restore the fortunes of poorer hill farmers in Britain, says he wants to see groups formed young farmers to restore walls and provide employment.

Dry-stone walls were primarily built to mark boundaries and enclose sheep and cattle, but they also provide shelter for stock. Most repairs utilise stone lying in a field.

The walls also provide a habitat for a range of flora and fauna: frogs, toads, weasels, stoats, mice, hedgehogs, wheatears, redstarts, lichen, mosses, spleenwort (fern) and polypody (fern).

The big advantage of dry-stone walls over fencing is longevity. A good stone wall can last 150-200 years. They can be built of sandstone or slate, granite, limestone, gristone or whinstone.

Problems arise from the constant rubbing of cattle, sheep trying to jump over them, roots of nearby trees disturbing their foundations, walkers carelessly climbing them, and the weather. Some of the stone is stolen for

rockeries and garden features.

"Once a gap opens up, or the coping stones (top stones) fall off, the wall can quickly start to deteriorate," says Mr Allen, who became British champion for the third time last month after nine one-day competitions held throughout the country.

If the deterioration of dry-stone walls accelerates, something else will be lost from the countryside: the language of the waller. A "creep" or a "smoot" is an opening for sheep; "cheek" is the end of a wall section; and "bellying" is the swelling of a wall before it bursts. There seems to be no word yet for "disappear".

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

● Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain, c/o YFC Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG (0121-378 0133).

Was the lichen our ancestor?

The strange natural story behind those colourful patches of flora

If there is any life on Mars, it will be a lichen, says Frank Dobson. "And it's possible that they were the first land-based life forms on Earth, which means we are all descended from lichens."

Mr Dobson's enthusiasm for lichens is Bellamy-like and infectious. He is a former president of the British Lichen Society, writes and lectures widely, and advises on wildlife films, such as David Attenborough's *The Private Life of Plants*. Meeting him throws a new light on those multi-coloured patches we see on trees and rocks, as I discovered on one of his field courses.

Entitled "Lichens near London", the aim of the weekend was to show that lichens are not only beautiful but useful, especially in their best-known role as indicators of air pollution. Because lichens comprise two organisms cohabiting (about 95 per cent fungus and 5 per cent alga), they come and go as the environment changes. The evidence they present is that the air around London and other big cities is getting cleaner.

The choice of Dorking, Surrey, for the course was deliberate: Surrey has fairly clean air combined with the heavy pollution from London. On Rammore Common Mr Dobson spotted a *Ramalina farinacea* and some particularly large *Usnea subfloridana*, and said excitedly: "Ten years ago you wouldn't have seen these here; it's an indication that the area is really getting cleaned up."

Using the Hawksworth and Rose zone scale — a test-point system devised to monitor levels of sulphur dioxide, which lichens hate, we spent most of the morning on a moderately rocky Zone 5 hill, with a brief foray into a fresher Zone 7 valley. These

were higher gradings than would have been scored ten years ago, suggesting that the Clean Air Act and fewer coal-fired power stations may be proving effective.

In Epping Forest, on the other side and downwind of London, 120 species of lichen were recorded in 1968. By 1970 there were 28 hardy types left. Now 50 species can be found. Lichens have many other uses: in dyes, herbal teas, perfumes, litmus paper, antibiotics, insecticide, animal fodder, and even emergency rations. During the Second World War, lichens were boiled with sulphuric acid to



Lichens have saved the starving

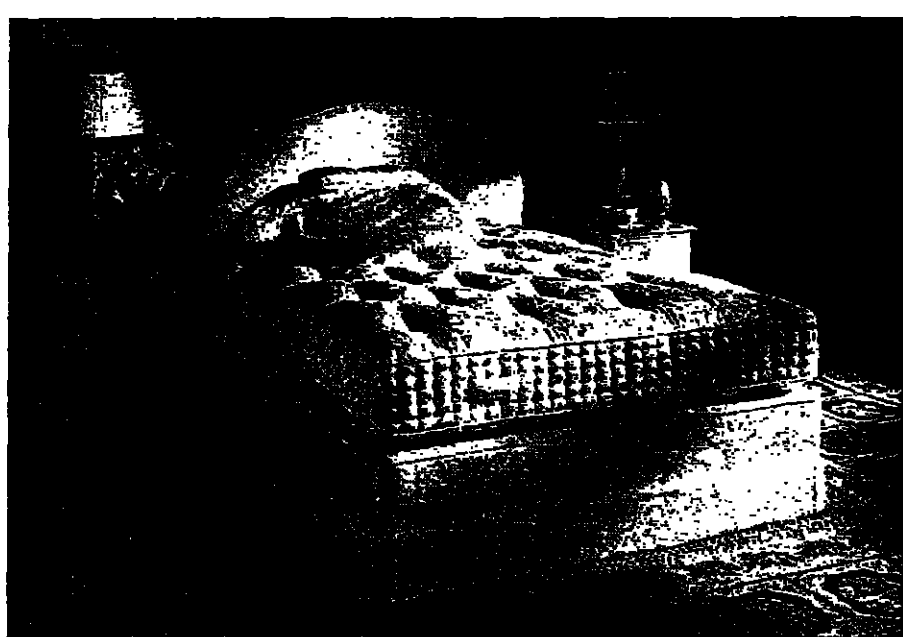
make sugar, so that sugar beet could be saved to make alcohol for the Soviet military.

The arctic explorer Sir John Franklin lived for 11 days on boiled lichens. As his party were also eating their leather boots and belts, the lichens probably went down well.

Growing best in the wet, but easier to study while dry, lichens can thrive where nothing else will. There is debate about whether they damage the surfaces on which they live, but Mr Dobson says only a few penetrate a surface and that most simply cling on, offering protection — one more reason to enjoy their structures, best seen through x10 magnifying hand lens.

JENNY MCCLEAN

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New lease of life for Mostyn

THERE has been a port at Mostyn for more than 400 years. At the turn of this century more than 2,000 people were employed in the area. But now parts of it are an industrial wasteland and our dock modernisation project will help to rehabilitate Mostyn.

The impression given in the Weekend article about Mostyn on October 7 was that wildlife will be threatened. In fact, five areas of mitigation land are to be provided and protected for various species, with the full knowledge of the Countryside Council for Wales. The Port of Mostyn Ltd has also offered a conservation management agreement for a further area of 900 hectares of foreshore which it owns. The area of estuarine land under direct conservation management will therefore increase by around 20 per cent. Snow geese, which are said to be threatened, do not visit the estuary: seals are some 3.5 miles away. None of the wildlife which inhabit the estuary are on an endangered species list.

Recent industrial developments on the estuary have also contributed areas for conservation, a fact well recognised and appreciated by responsible conservationists. The references to movements of silt containing plutonium, zinc and radioactivity, as quoted by Friends of the

Proposed docks will benefit the area, argues Jim O'Toole

Earth, are irresponsible. The company submitted an extensive Environmental Impact Assessment which included sediment analysis. The criteria for the sediment was laid down by the National Rivers Authority and it was confirmed that of the elements tested, without exception, all



Mostyn: the planned site

fell well within acceptable water quality standards. The NRA has not objected to the development scheme. As to toxin levels, they are well within statutory required limits. There is anyway no proposal to dredge the flats as all dredging will be carried out in sub-tidal areas.

Water quality has improved in recent years. During the

public inquiry, there was no substantive evidence offered which demonstrated that the construction operations would cause irreversible damage to wildlife, as the writer suggested.

The misleading impression given in the article was that local opposition is substantial. The project has the full support of all levels of government. A local petition in favour was signed by 1,309 people. More than 30 businesses wrote to the Welsh Office in support. Local opposition has been minute, as is suggested by daily records of those attending the public inquiry. At a meeting for local people on July 26, three people stood up to object, one of whom was from Friends of the Earth, the other two raised unrelated issues.

The photograph that accompanied the article was inaccurate, showing an area outside the Dee Estuary, some distance from Mostyn. Emma Brookes says that she saw "smoke" and cranes of Hamilton's oil refinery". There is no oil refinery on the Dee Estuary. She claimed that Mostyn village suffered three deaths from floods in 1991. There were no floods in 1991 and no fatalities, though there was a breach in a railway wall in 1990.

● The author is managing director of Port of Mostyn Ltd.

Lichen spotters wanted

- The author was a guest of the British Lichen Society who will send enthusiasts a local mapping card to help its research. Write to the BLS, c/o Department of Botany, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. Mr Dobson's leaflet "Lichens on man-made surfaces" is available free from the BLS (enclose SAE).
- Frank Dobson's course, "Lichens near London", was organised by the Field Studies Council, Preston Manor, Warwickshire, Shropshire SY4 1HW (01243 650674). Weekend courses £34 all inclusive weekly courses start at £220.
- A colour key, "Lichens and Air Pollution", published by the FSC and The Company of Biologists, costs £1.75 from the FSC.

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Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

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6

SHOPPING

National shopping trends may be sluggish, but Heathrow's luxury items march out of Terminal 4

Of flights and fancy goods

Interat is a word I coined long ago to describe the shoddy merchandise that greeted travellers in airport terminals the world over. Not any more, it seems. All that is changing.

Where, for instance, could you stroll from the sophistication of Harrods to the enchanted toytown of Hamleys in moments, or browse through Aquascutum, Austin Reed and Alders all under one roof and all tax-free?

The answer is at Heathrow's Terminal 4. Every day of the year, about 16,000 travellers exploit the duty-free and tax-free facilities in a spacious air-side shopping mall, where celebrated logos are reflected in the gleaming terrazzo floor tiles.

In less than an acre of this Heathrow high street you can buy Swiss shoes, English china, French perfume, Scotch whisky and Japanese watches, and carry them all off in Italian luxury luggage. Gone are the utilitarian Sky Shops and Runway Restaurants of yesterday, and in their place have come market leaders such as The Rack, the Body Shop and Garfunkel's.

Terminal 4 was opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales on April 1, 1986, and serves British Airways long-haul traffic, including Concorde, and flights to Paris, Athens and Amsterdam. KLM, Air Lanka and Air Malta also share the facility. It handled more than 11 million passengers last year, and its single departure lounge is the length of six soccer pitches with 92 check-in desks.

With a soaring 14 per cent increase in purchases, bringing duty and tax-free sales at Terminal 4 last year to just under £100 million, the BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, has already begun work on a scheme to increase the mall's size by more than one-third. Retailing is BAA's largest single source of revenue, bringing in more than traffic movement income, such as aircraft landing fees.

In recent years, Heathrow outlets

have bucked the sluggish national shopping trends, says Barry Gibson, BAA's group retailing director. "If people are still flying, they are likely to have a bob or two. More than 50 per cent of passengers flying out of Terminal 4 are ABS, and more than 80 per cent ABSs, he says. About 35 per cent are British.

To counter the rip-off image all too often associated with airport shopping, BAA has recently introduced a no-quibble, money-back guarantee that enables unhappy

6 Shops selling goods are the largest single source of revenue at Britain's airports

shoppers to return goods from anywhere in the world and have their money refunded within days. Prices of branded items are also guaranteed to be in line with those in high-street stores, less the 17.5 per cent VAT on taxed goods.

The behaviour of travellers in departure lounges is a subject that, naturally, fascinates Mr Gibson and his colleagues. In this respect, time-lapse video cameras provide them with invaluable information. "What we have found is that, once in the departure area, the first thing a family group does is to find seats and set up a base camp," he says. "Then they set off on foraging expeditions." While Mum sits with the bags, Dad wanders off for his bottle of Scotch.

"In Dad's absence, the kids inevitably gather around the video

games, and on his return Mum is released to venture off on a perfume-buying foray." Next, thoughts will turn to eating, says Mr Gibson, who muses on how predictably we all behave. In Terminal 4 the choice ranges from the humble burger and cola, to caviare and champagne.

There is even a typical English pub, complete with wood-panelled alcoves, which serves real ale. There it is not unusual to see transit passengers sipping pints in the early morning. It may be a strange sight, but, as Mr Gibson says, "According to their body clocks, it's probably evening."

At Terminal 4 the names of the customers are as well known as those of the merchandise. The pop star Des'ree recently asked staff on the HMV stand how her latest release was selling, and Burt Reynolds was sighted shopping at Mappin & Webb. Roger Moore also dropped in, but only to check on the value of his Rolex. The shop is, incidentally, the biggest selling outlet for Rolex in the UK. The most popular is the bi-colour ladies' and gentlemen's steel and gold watch (ladies' £2,059, gentlemen's £2,574, compared with £2,420 and £3,025 in the high street).

Despite the advent of Superdrug stores, airport perfume sales account for more than 10 per cent of the national market. The most popular fragrance at Heathrow — and at Terminal 4 — is Chanel No 5, while Christian Dior's Dune heads the poll at Givoch. Sales of perfume, combined with liquor and tobacco sales, account for more than 50 per cent of the market.

Japanese travellers top the league of international big spenders. Their gift culture, which dictates that when an employee takes a present back to give to the boss it has to reflect the recipient's status, helps to explain why Japanese customers spend an average of £69 — five times more than anyone else. Their favourite buys are Mild 7 cigarettes, Rémy Martin Cognac



The Japanese counter at Alders, where staff respect customers' need for individual attention

and Johnny Walker Blue Label. To cope with demand, the Alders International tax and duty-free shop (part of the high-street chain) has a Japanese manager as well as 16 Japanese-speaking staff members.

Although largely self-service, there is an old-fashioned counter for Japanese and Far Eastern customers who expect, and receive, individual attention. Small wonder that "Golden Week" is the name given by the Terminal 4 sales force to the May buying bonanza, when the Japanese traditionally take their holidays.

Opportunity is the key motivator for customers at airports," Mr Gibson says. Who, for instance, would believe that a significant

proportion of Mappin & Webb jewellery sales is accounted for by wedding rings bought by businessmen acting on impulse? Staff admit that they become blasé over customers who spend as much as £6,000 without turning a hair. At the other end of the price scale, Swatch has a current winner with a £25 cashy watch featuring the face of a seal and a synthetic leopards strap.

Children have to compete with grandmothers for attention at Hamleys. One anxious American matriarch, recently buying for six children, was insistent that her purchases be of equal value. Another paid around £1,000 for a 6ft befeater bear that stood guard at the shop's entrance, and was fortunate to find space on the aircraft to accommodate her pur-

chase in a seat beside her. Paddington Bears and Beatrix Potter items remain firm favourites, but one-off promotions boost sales of items such as the Bubaloo Bird.

Following the success of a shoe store at the terminal, Bally opened its first outlet devoted to bags and accessories, and sold 20,000 handbags in its first year. Pigeon linings can cause offence, staff found. The most expensive item is a £3,361 crocodile-skin briefcase, and a manager confided that you can sell anything as long as it is not too cheap.

Surprisingly, airport branches are not totally free from the seasonal tyranny that afflicts downtown stores and sees winter fashions monopolise display space in midsummer. Travellers bound for the sun can pick up a tax-free pair

Departures

Flight Time Information

Flight	Time	Information
BA 1	10:00	London
BA 2	10:30	Paris
BA 3	11:00	Amsterdam
BA 4	11:30	Brussels
BA 5	12:00	Frankfurt
BA 6	12:30	Munich
BA 7	13:00	Zurich
BA 8	13:30	Geneva
BA 9	14:00	Basel
BA 10	14:30	St Gallen
BA 11	15:00	Lucerne
BA 12	15:30	Basel
BA 13	16:00	Geneva
BA 14	16:30	Brussels
BA 15	17:00	Amsterdam
BA 16	17:30	Paris
BA 17	18:00	London

of Ray-Ban shades (Wayfarers are £45, compared with £52.90 elsewhere), but might have more difficulty locating lightweight holidaywear.

Clare Allen, who managed a high-street Jaeger store before transferring to Heathrow, describes the problem. "In a way we have followed the retail trend of our city-centre stores, but the longer we are here, the more able we are to adjust stock to public demand."

And, in any case, Jaeger customers are primarily interested in a British product, she says. Their biggest seller for men is a navy blazer (£204.26, compared with £240 elsewhere), and selling well to women this year, a hot-pink bouclé jacket for £221.28 (£260).

Concorde passengers are not the so-called spenders one might expect. Often they are businessmen or women in a hurry with nothing but work on their minds. Exceptions are passengers on the once-weekly Barbados flight. "They will often spend up to £5,000," one astonished assistant says.

While liquor, tobacco and perfume will, no doubt, continue to account for more than half of airport sales, a saving of 17.5 per cent VAT on other merchandise makes airport shopping attractive. Customs regulations allow passengers returning to Britain from outside the EU to bring in £136 worth of tax-free items.

To keep track of trends, Heathrow's authorities spend £500,000 a year asking travellers what they think of the operation. "We probably do more market research than MORI," Mr Gibson says. In practice, however, he knows the best form of market research is the contents of the terminal tills at the end of a week's trading.

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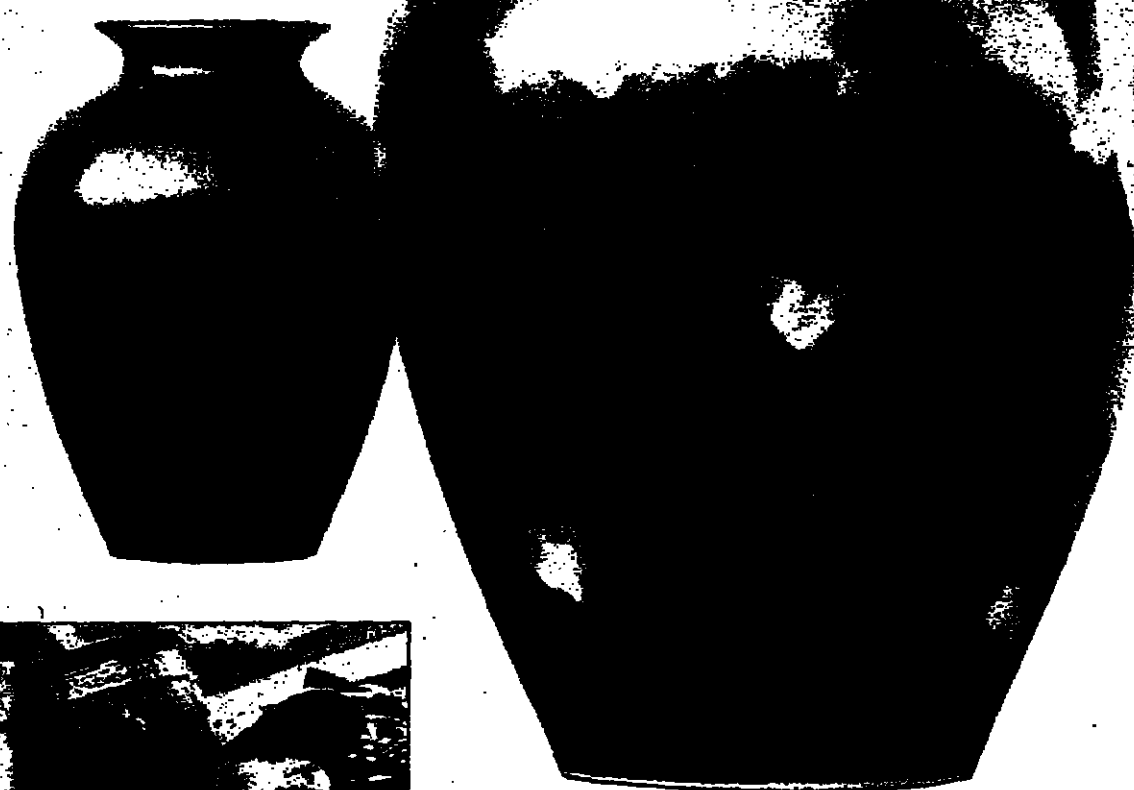
SHOPPING

The Vietnamese crafts with a modern gloss

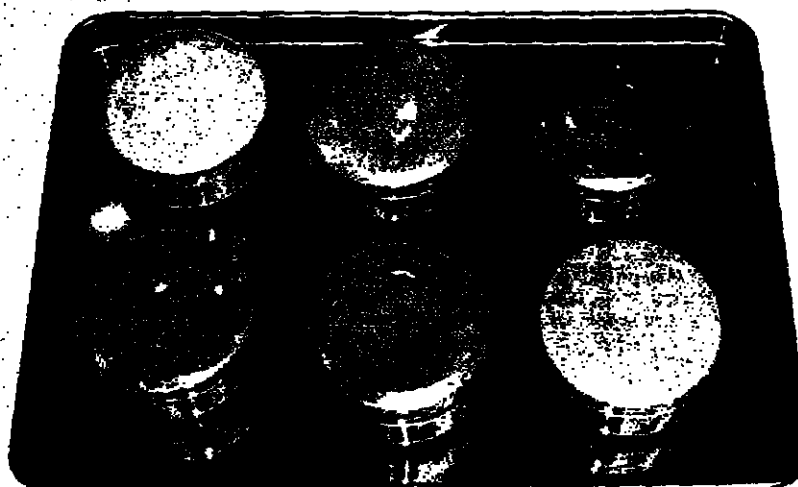
Where to find beautifully simple Far Eastern lacquerware and ceramics made in the traditional manner



Left, Master Cam's apprentice prepares ceramics for the kiln. Below, from left, Plain, Spot and Bird Feet vases, £19.50 each



Above left, Binh Yuen Sy with aquamarine pots, £115 for a set of four in varying sizes. Above right, a set of three round boxes, £18.50; a set of square "floral" boxes, £29.50. "Multicolour" oval box, £8.50



Above left, 10cm lacquer boxes, £6.50 each, on a black tray, £34.50. Above right, ceramic bowls, £19.50 for three

Xác Mộc (preparing the wood) is the first, and *Lau Đỏ* (applying a protective coat) is the last, and 17th, of the painstaking stages needed to make a single piece of Vietnamese lacquerware. It is a process which can take up to two months.

The extended *Sac* family in Saigon uses these traditional methods, originally brought from China, to produce boxes and trays now available in this country from Trade and Care in east London. It is true that some Far Eastern lacquerware, when relocated to Europe, can be uneasy on the eye with its elaborate and exotic patterns. Not so the basic black and minimalist blocks of colour of these designs.

Lacquer is extracted from the sap of the lacquer tree and has always been used in South-East Asia to protect wood. Until developed as an elaborate art form, it was usually black or Chinese red. The lacquer paste is rubbed into the hand-carved base made of the wood from the jackfruit tree (which does not crack easily), dried and buffed smooth by hand, layer by layer. Any colour and pattern is added to the final four stages, to produce the familiar hard, high-gloss surface.

Among the products that Trade and Care sells is a single 10cm-wide lacquer box in black, pink, cherry, plum, purple, red or gold. All have black interiors and cost £6.50. A tortoiseshell effect, as well as a cracked surface of bronze, rust and cherry - sold under the disarmingly mundane titles of "black spots on brown" and "multicolour" - are the same price, while the oval box is £8.50. A set of three round boxes (8cm, 10cm and 12cm) in black or various colour combinations is priced at £18.50.

Larger, square boxes in sets of two or three (13cm and 16cm, £18.50; 10cm, 13cm and 16cm, £29.50) are in black or "floral", a damask pattern of flowers that changes with the light, with a black border and sides (£29.50). Although "floral" is a classic Vietnamese design, the geometric effect is strikingly modern.

Capacious round boxes, similar to hat boxes (20cm, £15.50; 30cm, £24.50) and an interlocking, four-drawer rectangular box (19cm x 22cm, £79.50), both black lined in Chinese red, will disguise home or office chaos.

The lacquerware trays are free of embellishment, square or rectangular, and are sold in sets of two or three varying sizes, or singly in black, Chinese red, and floral (55cm x 35cm single, £34.50; set of three, £49.50).

Trade and Care has also combined the black tray with mauve, cherry, plum, turquoise or gold blocks of colour on the base (a set of two square trays, 32cm x 32cm, and 30cm x 30cm, £39.50).

The company is run by Binh Tyler, a Vietnamese whose family had lived in Cambodia for three generations before

the upheavals in South-East Asia of the late 1960s and 1970s led her to France. She did not return to South-East Asia until 1990. Ms Tyler, who trained as a baker and is married to a Frenchman, has a passion for Vietnamese crafts, which she hopes will begin to replace the *Apocalypse Now* image of Vietnam in Western minds.

She deals directly with the country's craftsmen, and began importing for the wholesale trade at the end of 1994, when trade restrictions with Vietnam were lifted. Her first, small mail-order catalogue will be available in mid-November for lacquerware and ceramics.

The ceramics are the work of three Master Potters from Bat Trang in northern Vietnam, using some designs that date from the 14th century. Master Cam makes vases, cups, storage jars and teapots with spouts in the shape of mythical animals. They are all in "blue and white", a crackle-glaze stoneware in beige and soft denim blue, decorated with stylised flowers and bamboo. No two pieces are the same. Master Cam is left to pot and paint as the mood takes him and is not tied down to producing a conveyor belt of

specific and inspiration-deadening patterns (storage jar 14cm high, 15cm wide, £22.50). Master Do works in green and turquoise ceramics, creating simple bowls, some with a raised pattern around the rim (set of three, 11cm, 16cm and 18cm diameter, £19.50).

Vases are the speciality of Master Loi. Produced in a brown/grey glaze, they have a classic shape appropriate to all

time zones. His Plain Vase, Bird Feet (as though a sparrow had hopped across the glaze), and Spotted Vase are 25cm high, 18cm wide and cost £19.50.

The Trade and Care larger pottery, which is not available by mail order, is stored in an East London warehouse. Converted from a cinema, it previously housed Londoners during the Blitz and, more

recently, too many Polish pickles to contemplate. Here, pots from the southern province of Bien Hoa are haphazardly stacked, some still in their packing crates. In aquamarine, sage green, pale blue, cobalt blue, mustard yellow and anything in between, they range from 17cm high and 25cm wide for £10, to 120cm high and 60cm wide for £95. If terracotta is beginning to pall, then step carefully over and around these dusty giant pots on your pick and mix voyage of exploration to decorate room or garden. Even if you think you are there to choose only one small lacquer box, the chances are you will need a large car with a forgiving suspension to cart away what you cannot leave without.

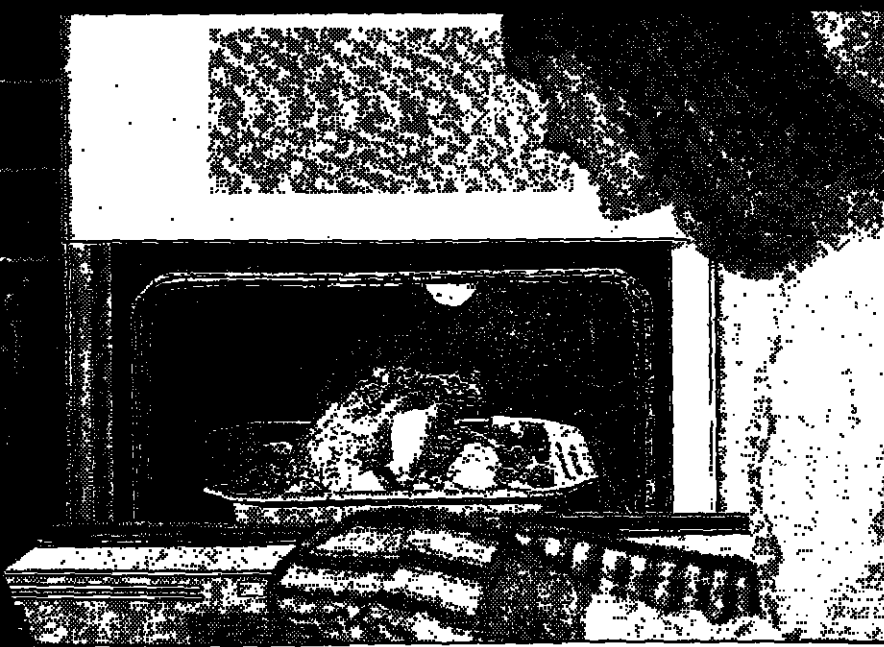
CHRISTINE WHEELER

Trade and Care is at 74 Buttesland Street, London N1 6BY. For a copy of Trade and Care's mail-order catalogues, call 0171-490 2493 Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm; fax 0171-336 7315. PEP extra, the cost depends on the order. Visits to the warehouse are by appointment only, using the above number.



Blue and white storage jar, £22.50, from north Vietnam

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10

RECORDINGS

NEW ON CD: Callas, divine but incomplete; Haydn's *Creation* recreated; Lick with bite; a classical sister on a jazz excursion

OPERA

John Higgins

CALLAS

La Divina complete
EMI 5 65746 2 (limited edition, 4 CDs) ***
THE TITLE is both accurate and mildly misleading. EMI has put together three CDs, issued from 1992 onwards under the name "La Divina". They were all drawn from previously issued Callas recordings, both full sets and opera recitals, on the company label and fitted with an eye-catching design showing the diva with blood-red lips, dead-white face and raven eyes and eyebrows. The new package looks equally good and, of course, sounds good, even



Callas: perfect articulation and a chilling pessimism

though nobody has bothered to provide texts of the arias.

Those who still need convincing about Callas's art have only to turn to the three tracks of the second CD. Here is Callas, accompanied by the man who did more than anyone to shape her career, the conductor Tullio Serafin, in Amina's Act I aria from Bellini's *La sonnambula* and part of the Mad Scene from *Lucia di Lammermoor*, the latter taken from the second recording she made of the opera. In between comes Adriana Lecocquer's *Io son l'umile ancella* from Cilea's opera of the same name, a part she never sang on stage but which shows her absolute mastery of the Italian turn-of-the-century style. Marvellous.

But in no way can the collection be considered the "complete Callas". No room among the 50 tracks is found for *Puritani*, recorded during her "fat" period and the first in a series of memorable associations with La Scala. Nothing from Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*, which she put back on the map at that house, nor from *Macbeth*.

As compensation there is a fourth disc drawn from two radio interviews she gave during the intervals of opera

transmissions from the Met in New York, which have not been previously issued here. The interviewer is Edward Downes — not our own Ted Downes but the American broadcaster of the same name. His style may be a bit starstruck and even unctuous, but he gets his subject talking, which must be the main aim of any interviewer. Callas's answers are ever precise and each is given the perfect articulation and shape she would lavish on a Verdi aria. There are surprises: a lack of enthusiasm for Tosca in general and for *Vissi d'arte* in particular, which she reckons simply holds up the action.

And there is one chilling moment. Callas, while expressing her determination to grow better and better, admits to pessimism. The recordings date from around Christmas 1967. She had already made what was to be her last stage appearance, as Tosca. And only the ill-fated concert tour with di Stefano was to follow.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

WAGNER

Overtures and preludes, etc
London Classical Players/
Norrington

EMI CDC 5 55479 3 ***

LAST autumn Roger Norrington and the London Classical Players threw down the gauntlet by presenting four Wagner overtures or preludes not only on period instruments but at brisk tempos that boldly confronted the grand, mystic tradition. The experiment was fascinating but inconclusive, not least because the performances themselves were of uneven quality.

Now Norrington and the LCP have produced a more carefully prepared all-Wagner programme that will surely force a reconsideration of the hallowed tradition of Wagner performance. The most extreme revisionism concerns the *Meistersinger* and *Tristan* preludes. Rarely has a work been more in need of salvation in our own day than *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, with its inflated nationalist rhetoric and pernicious anti-Semitic subtext. Norrington's account, coming in, as Wagner himself prescribed, at just over eight minutes (knocking between one and three minutes off many standard performances), dispenses with a good deal of pomp and fuss, projecting a far more wholesome, celebratory view of the Masters and their proceedings. A distinct improvement over the live performance is the execution of the counterpoint, which no longer sounds as rushed.

The *Tristan* Prelude, argues Norrington, should be seen as a slow waltz, in the Berlioz tradition, and its 6/8 time signature be felt as two beats in a bar. This approach looks back at where *Tristan* came from rather than where it led, but it does show the music in an intriguing new light. Most successful of all is the

NEW ON VIDEO: Biohazard in California; heroes of the Battle of Britain; all you can take of Tom and Jerry



Infectious fear: Dustin Hoffman stars as the diminutive action man fighting to save mankind, or at least California, from a deadly virus in the eco-thriller *Outbreak*

OUTBREAK

Warner Home Video, 15, 1995

A VIRUS breaks out of a California laboratory and becomes airborne: when one man coughs in a cinema, you know the whole town is doomed. This is rousing stuff while the disease spreads, tautly directed with dialogue to match ("Looks like we have a Level Four, Sam!"). Trouble starts once the script moves into a conspiracy plot and a preposterous finale. Dustin Hoffman makes a funny kind of action man, but one that is worth watching. Available to rent.

■ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**
CIC, PG, 1943
SINCE Universal had two hearty singers under contract, Nelson Eddy and Susanna Foster, opera arias sometimes outweighed thrills in this classic melodrama. But no other version can boast Claude Rains, resplendent as the disfigured composer of the catacombs. The material has been digitally remastered for

ANGELS ONE FIVE

Lumiere, PG, 1951

A MORSEL of the Battle of Britain, recaptured in tranquillity by filmmakers and actors partly drawn from RAF veterans. The resulting

drama never soars to the higher stratosphere, but there is no denying the film's sincerity or nostalgic charge. Jack Hawkins give a pivotal gold-braid performance as the group captain at a Kent fighter station. After this part, Hawkins wrote, he "played enough senior officers to stock the whole Ministry of Defence".

THE SMALL BACK ROOM

Lumiere, PG, 1948

IN THE midst of colour extravaganzas such as *The Red Shoes*, the Powell and Pressburger team buckled down to sober black and white for this excellent version of the Nigel Balchin novel, with the late David

this video release, restoring gloss to the Oscar-winning sets and photography.

ONE MILLION YEARS BC

Warner Beyond Vision, PG, 1966

RAQUEL WELCH models the latest prehistoric fashions in this jolly piece of Hammer silliness, which comes complete with excellent prehistoric monsters from Ray Harryhausen, lots of loincloths, and a script stronger on grunts than words.

THE VALLEY OF GWANGI

Warner Beyond Vision, 12, 1968

GET OUT the dust covers: prehistoric monsters are on the rampage, stamping and screaming as showmen penetrate Mexico's Forbidden Valley in search of headline attractions: King Kong, creator Willis O'Brien developed the project in 1941, but protégé Ray Harryhausen finally carried it through. Splendid moments: the roping of the ornithomimus, and Gwangi (an allosaurus) confronting a cathedral.

GEOFF BROWN

THE TIMES

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VOCAL

Hilary Finch

HAYDN

Die Schöpfung
Orchestra of the 18th
Century/Brüggen

Philips 446 073-2 ***

LIKE Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *The Creation* had several "first" performances, and scholars still argue about the relative claims of a larger or smaller choir, boys or women, more or fewer double-basses. Of course, there is no definitive line-up: my two

Marie-Ange Todorovitch as Juno calls up the masque, and there is many a sound and sweet air, to say nothing of dances and intermedes, between these six rare and enchanting songs. A most welcome addition to the catalogue.

■ **CHAUSSEON**
La Légende de Sainte
Cécile/The Tempest
Ensemble Orchestral de
Paris/Kantorow

EMI 5 55323 2 ***

ERNEST CHAUSSEON learnt his English with the poet Mallarmé, and wrote his incidental music for *The Tempest* for the Petit Théâtre des Marionnettes in Paris. "Sur le sable d'or" may not have quite the ring of Come unto these yellow sands, but only the hardest of Francophone hearts could resist Laurence Dale's Ariel singing with celesta and harp, or François le Roux as Stephano in a tipsy serenade to Meg, Marian, Margery and Kate — to the tune of *Old King Cole*.

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■ **LICK**
Filming
Feroocious/WEA
0630-12425 ***

THE march of the four-letter Britpop bands continues. Lick have spent the year or so since they got together criss-crossing Britain in their Transit van (they are at the Crypt in Hastings tonight). *Filming* is their second single.

A brisk, guitar-driven slice of punk-inspired pop, it takes a swipe at the kind of celebrity/media gatherings where, according to singer Gary Cosby, "the only qualification of acceptance is the ability to air-kiss and talk crap".

happy and still innocent human pair; and there are few friskier menageries anywhere on disc.

The Gulbenkian Choir is sprightly in hymning the new world, and an equally carefully selected palette of solo voices, including Luba Orgonasova's Gabriel, John Mark Ainsley's Uriel, Joan Rodgers's Eva, and Per Volland's Adam make this a true paradise regained.

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POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

PULP

Different Class
Island 524 165 ***

PULP are the great interlopers of the new Britpop hierarchy. About ten years older than most of their rivals, they have consistently shunned the cool musical reference points of the 1980s (Beatles, Stones, Kinks) in favour of a range of influences notable for their quite spectacular naivety.

Richard Harris, Serge Gainsbourg, the Boomtown Rats, Gloria Gaynor and Barry Ryan are just some of the more obvious inspirations that have shaped their new album, *Different Class*.

It is nevertheless an entertaining collection of left-field, prosaic and anti-romantic than ever. "My favourite parks are car parks. Grass is something you smoke. Birds are something you shag," he duly notes in *Spy*, a strangely vindictive narrative showed up, as are many of the tracks, by the rather sickly sound of synthesized strings.

In song after song, the detritus of soiled relationships and the fallout from various sordid encounters piles up: *Underwear*, *Pencil Skirt*, *Live Bed Show*. Even the beautiful kids of the rave generation come in for a share of the needle on the hit single *Sorted For E's And W's*, a tale of all-night partying which ends with the memorable parting shot: "I seem to have left an important part of my brain somewhere in a field in Hampshire".

Cocker emerges as a shrewd, if somewhat world-weary commentator, with a playwright's ear for words, while the band supplies a suitably dramatic — at times even epic — musical backdrop. Low it or load it, *Different Class* is in a class of its own, and Pulp's reputation as pop's great outsiders remains gloriously intact.

■ **KATIA LABEQUE**
Little Girl Blue
Disques Dreyfus
FDM 36186-2 ***

WHENEVER that fey pair, the Labèque Sisters, have strayed from the classics and slipped into improvisational mode, the critical reception has been, by and large, less than ecstatic. Katia Labèque's new project, a thoughtfully programmed series of duets with bona fide jazz pianists, including Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock and Michel Camilo, should prompt an immediate reassessment.

Keyboard duets create all manner of difficulties in terms of tonal contrast. Labèque's opening sortie with Corea on Bill Evans's lyrical *We Will Meet Again*, for instance, suffers from a certain lack of clarity as the two voices continually merge and overlap. No such problems arise with the sharply defined Latin rhythms of the three-inspired

encounters with the Cuban expatriate Gonzalo Rubalcaba, an undoubted virtuoso who normally cannot resist piling high the ornamentation.

This time a new element of restraint enters his playing. The tempo on the standard *Besame Mucho* is so slow that it recalls Glenn Gould at his most mischievous. Yet it works triumphantly, and Rubalcaba's performance on the playful *Prologo Comienzo*

and *Quizas Quizas Quizas* prove equally effective.

Two other pieces take a more tightly structured approach. The extended conversation with Herbie Hancock on *My Funny Valentine* makes ingenious use of transcriptions of two of Hancock's previous interpretations of the tune. If Labèque's touch seems a little mannered here, her treatment of another Richard Rodgers melody, *Little Girl Blue*, languidly weaves a path through one of Oscar Peterson's improvisations.

■ **LIONEL HAMPTON**
For the Love of Music
Molazz 530554-2 ***

WHILE Dianne Reeves's crystalline vocals enliven *Take the A-Train*, Lionel Hampton's mellow, all-star trio for the junior Motown market never really takes flight. At well over 80, he contributes some dignified and concise vibes solos, and signs off with his favourite encore *What A Wonderful World*. The rest is the sound of Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan and Grover Washington going through the motions.

* Worth hearing
** Worth considering
*** Worth buying



Labèque: tightly structured

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Disques Dreyfus
FDM 36186-2 ***

WHENEVER that fey pair, the Labèque Sisters, have strayed from the classics and slipped into improvisational mode, the critical reception has been, by and large, less than ecstatic. Katia Labèque's new project, a thoughtfully programmed series of duets with bona fide jazz pianists, including Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock and Michel Camilo, should prompt an immediate reassessment.

Keyboard duets create all manner of difficulties in terms of tonal contrast. Labèque's opening sortie with Corea on Bill Evans's lyrical *We Will Meet Again*, for instance, suffers from a certain lack of clarity as the two voices continually merge and overlap. No such problems arise with the sharply defined Latin rhythms of the three-inspired

encounters with the Cuban expatriate Gonzalo Rubalcaba, an undoubted virtuoso who normally cannot resist piling high the ornamentation.

This time a new element of restraint enters his playing. The tempo on the standard *Besame Mucho* is so slow that it recalls Glenn Gould at his most mischievous. Yet it works triumphantly, and Rubalcaba's performance on the playful *Prologo Comienzo*


and *Quizas Quizas Quizas* prove equally effective.

Two other pieces take a more tightly structured approach. The extended conversation with Herbie Hancock on *My Funny Valentine* makes ingenious use of transcriptions of two of Hancock's previous interpretations of the tune. If Labèque's touch seems a little mannered here, her treatment of another Richard Rodgers melody, *Little Girl Blue*, languidly weaves a path through one of Oscar Peterson's improvisations.

■ **LIONEL HAMPTON**
For the Love of Music
Molazz 530554-2 ***

WHILE Dianne Reeves's crystalline vocals enliven *Take the A-Train*, Lionel Hampton's mellow, all-star trio for the junior Motown market never really takes flight. At well over 80, he contributes some dignified and concise vibes solos, and signs off with his favourite encore *What A Wonderful World*. The rest is the sound of Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan and Grover Washington going through the motions.

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PROPERTY

13

New life for old cottages

The National Trust for Scotland is renovating and selling small houses of historical interest

Mike and Melanie Cassidy picked up a free newspaper at the airport and spotted a house coming on to the market at Dalkeith, near Edinburgh. Brewlands Lodge, a category A listed, 19th-century castellated lodge in the final stages of restoration by the National Trust for Scotland, was being sold by the Trust's Little Houses Improvement Scheme (LHIS).

"We weren't seriously considering moving," Mrs Cassidy says, "but when we saw the house, we knew we had to buy it. We wouldn't see a place like this again for a long time."

Now happily settled in the property for which they paid more than the £90,000 asking price, the couple see themselves as beneficiaries of a scheme which has bought, restored and then sold more than 200 small properties of architectural and historical interest in Scotland over the last 35 years. Most date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Restoration costs so far are estimated at around £12 million.

Unknown in England and Wales, the LHIS was set up to save fine examples of vernacular architecture which might otherwise have remained in poor condition, fallen down or been demolished. Because most of the buildings are listed, restoration generally attracts grant aid from Historic Scotland - responsible for listing, grants and the maintenance of 330 historic sites in Scotland - enterprise com-

panies and local authorities. The scheme is less concerned with grand houses than with properties which belonged to fishermen, artisans, merchants and shipbuilders, says Judith Anderson of the LHIS.

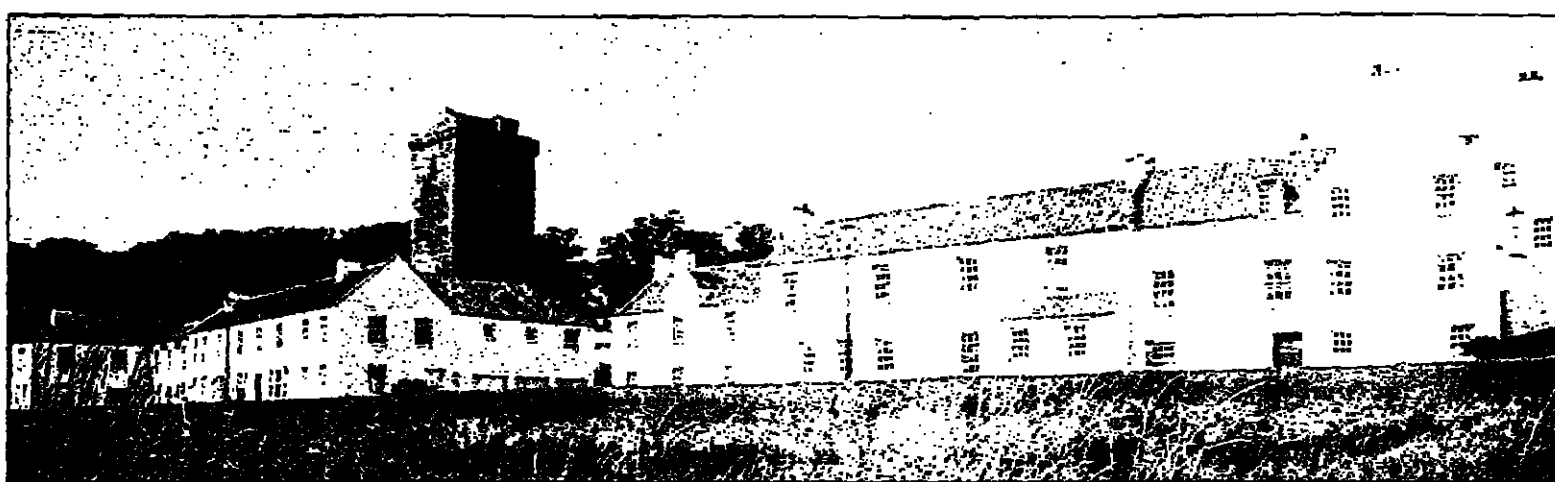
Over the years, this has included panicle houses with "crow step" gables in Fife; formerly thatched, white-washed Highland cottages; and granite cottages with shallow pitched slate roofs in southwest Scotland.

Suggestions for restoration come from local planning authorities, members and staff of the Trust, Historic Scotland and the public, but certain criteria still govern the decisions to take on a property: its historic and architectural merit, whether or not it is vacant, the market price, the estimated cost of restoration and its chances of selling.

Brewlands Lodge fitted the bill perfectly. This landmark in the town had not been lived in for many years. The property was bought from Lothian Estates, and the National Trust for Scotland spent £115,000 and one year restoring its tower and adding an extension.

The tower now has a fitted kitchen and two bedrooms, while the rest of the building houses a bathroom, utility room, dining hall, living room and third bedroom. The property was replumbed, rewired, and central heating was installed.

A few miles away, 1 Mid Terrace in South Queensferry,



a merchant's house built in 1753 with a cellar, three floors, walled garden and views across the Firth of Forth, is receiving the same treatment. The house, uninhabited for more than 30 years, comes on to the market in November. It has a kitchen, utility room, dining room, family room, two sitting rooms, three bedrooms and two bathrooms. All first-floor rooms have 18th-century wood panelling, which has been taken out in sections, cleaned and repaired. The back wall has been covered in lime rendering, which is in keeping with the Trust's policy of using traditional methods of craftsmanship.

The purchase of the property and the subsequent painstaking restoration is costing a little more than £300,000, although there are grants from Historic Scotland (£70,000), Edinburgh District Council, and Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprise. The Trust is hoping for offers of more than £180,000, which

will mean that it does little more than break even. Nevertheless, the cost is justified by the cultural importance of the building and its interior.

"It's difficult to conceive of a private buyer taking such pains over the preservation of the historic fabric here, but the Trust wanted to have this house as close to the original as possible. Somebody will be getting a bargain," Ms Anderson says.

Before the LHIS started in 1960, a number of 17th and 18th-century properties had been restored by the Trust in Culross, Fife, and Dunkeld in Perthshire. At the time they were rented - they are still owned by the Trust - but because insufficient money was generated for the purchase of more properties, the Trust came up with the concept of a "revolving fund" requiring the sale of restored houses.

Proceeds from sales are ploughed back into the revolving fund, and capital is set

aside to finance restorations under the scheme. Over 35 years the LHIS has grown from £20,000 to £1.2 million.

Part of the capital then goes towards the next project. Joint revolving funds have also been set up with five local authorities, who have entered into partnership with the LHIS to promote projects. There is also a fund with a private charity-

ble trust to restore places for sheltered housing.

Two years ago, the scheme's most expensive project, the £2 million restoration and conversion of Tollerton Mansion House into 13 flats for the elderly, was completed in Glasgow. The building was bought from the City Council for a mere £1, and Shetleston Housing Association in Glas-

gow later paid about £500,000 for it and now own it. Another property, a category A listed friary lying empty in Glasgow's Gorbals, is currently being studied with a view to buying, restoring and then selling it to provide flats for the elderly.

Guaranteeing the future preservation of all these properties are conservation agreements, which buyers must adhere to and which are then binding on future purchasers. They stipulate regular maintenance and forbid alteration to the internal and external fabric of the building, or a change of use without the Trust's permission.

Although the scheme's favoured route is to purchase, restore and then sell houses, some owners still buy unrestored houses from the

Would a private buyer take such pains over preservation?

Trust and do them up themselves. This process, however, is becoming increasingly rare and is not encouraged.

One of the Trust's first projects was the restoration of a row of fishermen's houses and an old inn, together with the building of five houses at Dysart near Kirkcaldy in Fife. Fife has a considerable number of LHIS projects, but properties are being restored across Scotland.

Myrtle Cottage, a newly thatched property consisting of two 18th-century cottages converted into one, at Yetholm in the Borders, is expected to be sold in November for between £80,000 and £90,000. Like all LHIS properties, it will be advertised in the local newspapers and, if the timing is right, in the Trust's own quarterly publication, *Heritage Scotland*.

And, like all properties, Myrtle Cottage will have a plaque fixed to the outside of the building announcing: "Restored by the National Trust for Scotland Little Houses Improvement Scheme." Finding the plaque is the last job before a sale.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

For more information about the Little Houses Improvement Scheme, call 0131-226 9922



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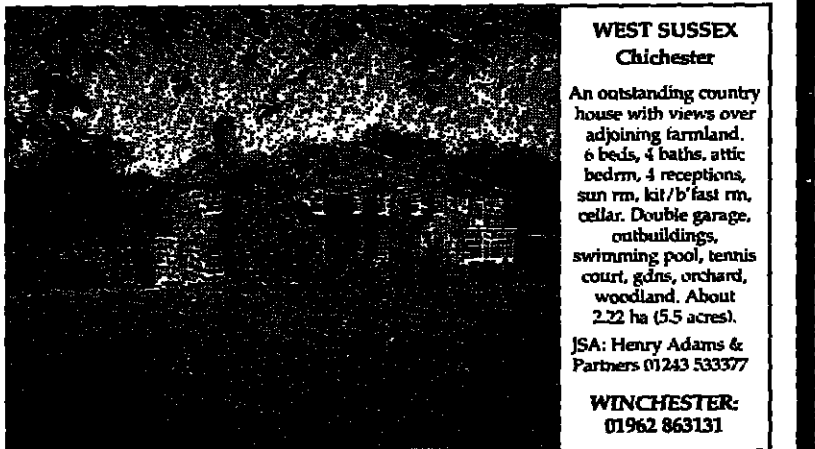
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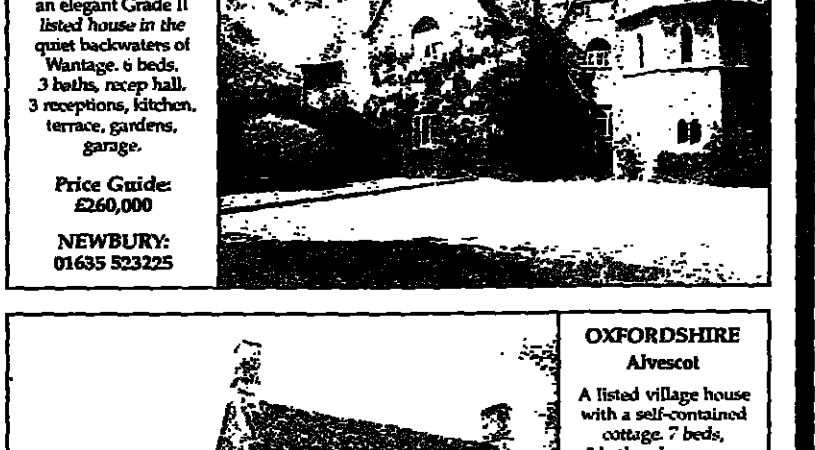
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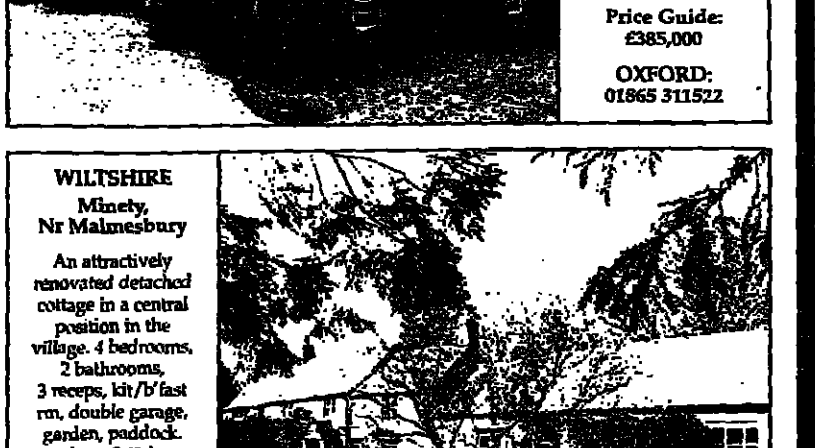
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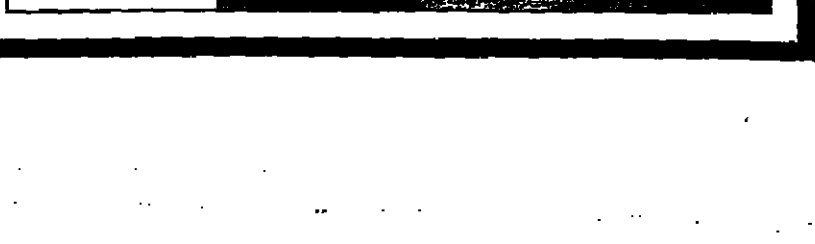
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The lack of a comic novel on the Booker shortlist shows that, despite the eulogies, Kingsley Amis left little of lasting influence on English letters

Kingsley's empty throne of comedy

All the late Sir Kingsley Amis's tributes agreed on one thing: reactionary and misanthropic old codger though he may have become, he was the undisputed king of the comic novel. Now that he is safely dead, and pigeonholed with Wodehouse and Waugh, the voice of the turtle may be heard in the land — with a respect he never received or expected in life. How he would have enjoyed sending up his less sincere eulogists, some of whom are pretenders to his satirical throne.

But the shortlist for this year's Booker Prize, from which the winner will emerge on November 7, suggests that, for all the fulsome homage to Amis from the literary establishment, he bequeaths very

little tangible influence on English literature. There are no comic novels on this list at all; nor has such a novel won since... *The Old Devils* in 1986. It is no accident that a writer who most obviously draws on the very English, mordantly satirical yet richly whimsical vein of Amis and his friend Philip Larkin is his son Martin Amis — who was, of course, excluded from this shortlist. George Walden, the chairman, tried hard to persuade his fellow judges to give Martin's *The Information* the empty sixth place on the list, but he met implacable opposition from Adam Mars-Jones

and Peter Kemp, whose destructive analysis of the novel was decisive.

Of those that were chosen, only Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh* raises a smile here and there with his enviable gift for absurdist parody. Rushdie's chief concern in this overflowing cornucopia of a novel is, however, deadly serious. When his narrator discourses on the tyranny of fear, we cannot help remembering (nor are we meant to) just who is writing these words:

"By embracing the inescapable, I lost my fear of it. I'll tell you a secret about fear: it's an

absolutist. With fear, it's all or nothing. Either, like any bullying tyrant, it rules your life with a stupid blinding omnipotence, or else you overthrow it, and its power vanishes in a puff of smoke. And another secret: the revolution against fear, the engendering of the cowardly despot's fall, has more or less nothing to do with 'courage'. It is driven by something much more straightforward: the simple need to get on with your life."



DANIEL JOHNSON

Even from this brief passage, it is clear that one is dealing here with rhetoric persuasive, eloquent and moving, no doubt, but rhetoric nonetheless. The point about Amis (and with him a long tradition of pessimistic satire which goes back to Swift) is his aversion to rhetoric in any form — the nobler in sentiment, the more he suspected insincerity.

Rushdie is perhaps the outstanding representative in our time of a very different literary tendency: that of Shaw, Wells and Orwell, all of whom shared a fundamental optimistic faith in humanity. Rushdie's narrator can overcome his fear, because that for which he stands is, in this fictional universe, more durable than that which threatens it. The very opposite is true of Amis: for him, the evident transience of all that he admired and held dear was the measure of its value.

In the absence of such heavyweights as Martin Amis and Kazuo Ishiguro (whose difficult, controversial but extraordinary novel *The Uncon-*

soled was dismissed by the Booker panel after one judge called it "boring"), *The Moor's Last Sigh* is, in my opinion, the best novel on this year's list. However, I am not sure that it ought to win.

There is no rule against anybody winning the Booker twice (perhaps there should be; another former winner, Barry Unsworth, is on the list too). But Rushdie has not only won the Booker for *Midnight's Children*; he also won the "Booker of Bookers" in 1993. He is a strong advocate of grants for young writers, such as the one

that enabled him to make his breakthrough. If he wins, it would be a splendid gesture for Rushdie to give half or even all of the £20,000 prize-money to a younger novelist of his choice. Despite the *fatwa*, few writers are better informed about their peers.

This autumn the collapse of the Net Book Agreement has prompted some in the book trade to grumble that the Booker has outlived its usefulness. The Tuesday after next will be the last occasion on which Sir Michael Caine, the former chairman of Booker plc, will present the prize he founded 27 years ago. It is time for the administrators to take stock. The Booker has been the butt of jokes over the years. But it has also become an institution. We still need it.

Wainwright, hero to generations of Lakeland walkers, also had a dark side, says Melvyn Bragg

Friend and fiend of the fell

WAINWRIGHT: THE BIOGRAPHY
By Hunter Davies
Michael Joseph, £16.99

EVERYONE who has read Wainwright or walked in his footsteps will want this book. They will be in for a satisfying disclosure of the step along the way which turned a lonely Blackburn clerk into a singular artist. What might satisfy less is the equally thorough revelation of his meanness, even his cruelty, as a husband, a father, and a friend.

His own father was a violent drunk — Wainwright himself scarcely ever drank. His mother, on very meagre pickings, kept the family together with the help of her faith. Wainwright looked for most of his life for a Dream Woman. His early marriage to Ruth Holden was spent, on his part, in a sullen silence, in hers, until the divorce, in a wholly accommodating anxiety. He kept her short of money and forbade her any social life.

His work as a clerk in Blackburn and later in Kendal brought him considerable contentment in the ordering of figures and the neatness of ledgers. Outside the office he was profoundly isolated and preferred it that way. Inside he was the producer of little magazines, jokes, and caricatures with an ever open eye for "plump juicy specimens". His addition to maps and the doggedness with which he taught himself to draw began early and, when, aged 45, he



Alfred Wainwright on Scout Scar in 1984 — his guides became "the book of common prayer of the walking man"

set out to climb every one of Lakeland's 214 fells, writing and illustrating the walks in his own way, and publishing the results on his own terms, he was deeply prepared.

The story of that obsession with the Lake District is well recorded by Wainwright and well told by Davies. Wainwright's second obsession — with his Dream Woman — produces the most remarkable love revelations.

In those little books he entered the rucksacks of so many of those who loved the fells as he did. Wainwright became the book of common prayer of the walking man. The little we heard of him — his dislike of young bulls, his overall grumpy grumpiness — adds up to a sort of Father Christmas of the uplands, endearing in a particularly Northern way. As he was. But he was also someone

darker. A man driven on those endless walks to exhaust the pressure of unfulfilled sex. A man prepared to let nobody interfere with his master plan. He left the publisher who had sweated him into print and secured his popularity because he got a better offer. Though he loved his son Peter as a young companion, he let him drift, and in his will left him nothing, although he knew that Peter was crippled

with arthritis and had very little material support.

In the end he found his Dream Woman. Along the way he wrote books of great rarity, giving pleasure at first to scores and then to millions. Davies's excellent biography captures the light and shade, and Wainwright emerges as someone whose obsession, while it gave his readers joy, was grounded in the pain of others.

Hard news in the Garden

Helen Stevenson ponders the ethical questions posed by a love story set in the new world disorder

THE NARRATOR of *Eveless Eden*, a reporter for *The New York Times*, remarks early on in the novel that the Collapse of News occurred during the Gulf War. Desert Storm witnessed "an exodus of print journalists into the promised land of television". Suddenly the emphasis from faith in words switched to faith in pictures, and we embraced the idea that the camera never lies, but language does.

This observation sets the tone for a memorable and intelligent love story, a thriller set in the world of rapid political change between 1986 and 1991, seen through the eyes of a journalist, Noah John. While faithfully wedded to the word, he finds himself unable to perform. Carpal tunnel syndrome has wrecked his fingers, and with them his ability to type. "First I lost my girl and then I lost the way to do my job."

Noah (a writer) and Lilith (a photographer) meet in Cameroon in 1986, on the occasion of the explosion of a lake. The low point of their affair, the Fall, occurs in Berlin in November 1989. There is a certain pleasure in the allegorical insistence, even if it is at times overdone. They are all here — Lilith, Eve, Noah and Adam — in a world in which we hoped that a new, democratic order might be created out of chaos. There is, of course, no easier trick than for the omniscient novelist to demonstrate that life imitates art. It is not really

EVELESS EDEN
By Marianne Wiggins
Flamingo, £12.99

enough to endow your heroine with an obsession with *Tosca* and then scoop in the irony chips when it turns out she has an alarming tendency to have affairs with people such as the Romanian minister for trade (Adam Pentru), to betray her lover, the principle of her art and, well, you can maybe guess the rest. Nevertheless it does add weight to a novel



Wiggins not to be eclipsed

which is so exciting that some ballast is required if you are not to skim it in your haste to learn the outcome.

Eveless Eden may be read simply as a love story and, as love stories go, it is quite a heart squeezer. But it is also full of beefy ethical questioning, personal and political. Which is why the use of contemporary history as an allegorical framework works so brilliantly. The final chap-

ters are written in a heart-breakingly speculative present tense, which ensures we can never be sure whether what we would like to have happened in the end really did.

Journalists are better placed than the rest of us to recall and evoke the extraordinariness of a particular period in world history. At the same time, journalism carries in its very etymology the seeds of its own daily extinction, and is therefore a wonderfully ironic subject for the novel. It is not for nothing that Wiggins opens with the image of a butterfly. A butterfly, like a newspaper, lives only for a day. The butterfly image is given a brilliant reprise when Noah encounters a human butterfly in a lift, a man hidden behind an outspread newspaper, whom he recognises as "the most sought-after, and notorious author of the later part of the 20th century". To transform her celebrity former husband-in-hiding, Salman Rushdie, a high priest of non-disposable print, into a butterfly, a one-day wonder — is this sympathy or rancour?

Wiggins quotes, on page two, the warning, displayed near French railway lines: "Caution — one train may hide another." Maybe there is an irony here. Maybe one novelist may hide another, one reputation, one talent eclipse another. Wiggins has always found greater success as a novelist in America than in Britain. *Eveless Eden* should surely redress this imbalance.

THE TIMES READER OFFER The Times Book of Best Sermons

In October 1994, *The Times* and the College of Preachers launched a nationwide competition for Preacher of the Year with a first prize of £1,000 and a specially commissioned sculpture.

Now you can read the words of those clergy and laity who most impressed a panel of judges in *The Times Book of Best Sermons*, edited and introduced by Ruth Gledhill, our religious affairs correspondent. The book contains 30 sermons chosen from more than 500 entries.

The contributors, who represent a variety of denominations from Roman Catholic to Baptist, men and women, were free to choose any biblical text to fit in with any season of the Christian year. The result is a collection of thought-provoking sermons on everything from love and sexuality by John Irvine of St Barnabas church, Kensington, London, to a challenging "What kind of Christian are You?" by Jim Kea, a Methodist minister who reaches out to people with addictions in Belfast.

The finals of our Preacher of the Year award will be held on All Saints Day, Wednesday, November 1, at St Pancras Parish Church, Euston Road, London, NW1.

Six finalists who were heard at their churches by a qualified panel of 20 judges. These six will conduct a special service commencing at 2.00pm and each will preach before a judging panel chaired by the Bishop of Hull, the Rt Rev James Jones and six judges including Ludovic Kennedy, confirmed atheist, the Rt Hon John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment and Ruth Gledhill.

The winner will be announced in *The Times* on Thursday, November 2, 1995. Readers can obtain a copy of *The Times Book of Best Sermons*, normally £9.99, for only £7.99, including postage and packing, and with an inserted book plate signed by Ruth Gledhill.

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Blood will tell

BLOODSTAINED KINGS
By Tim Willocks
Jonathan Cape, £14.99

some: an over-the-top orgy of violence and overwriting. It is also, I am afraid, extremely enjoyable.

The central figure is a grotesque in the most sinister of neo-Gothic traditions: an obese lawman in the southern states of America who has become a

cynical law unto himself and appears to be dispensing brutal justice from beyond the grave. His puppets are a depressive city doctor and his gun-boss union-boss father with a mission to put the world to rights. But the central figure is a sexy middle-aged multimillionaire who has kept her supposedly deceased husband as a drugged prisoner in a cage for 13 years, and still ends up on the side of the angels.

The key to all this intrigue is a young half-caste singer called Ella MacDaniels, who is happily strutting her stuff in a nightclub when the tidal wave of violence unleashed by the fat man's legacy breaks over her. The next 48 hours are a frenetic hetero-skelter of bloodletting and mutilation.

This is *Dallas* meets *Apocalypse Now*, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* reworked for the 1990s by Stephen King: spectacular, gruesome, preposterous, self-obsessed, self-strangling, incarnadine even. Rising.

PETER MILLAR

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK			Lag. No. weeks		
1	DELIA SMITH'S WINTER COLLECTION Delia Smith (BBC)	£15.99	0	1	
2	A SOLDIER'S WAY Colin Fowles (Hutchinson)	£20	0	1	
3	FROM POTTER'S FIELD Patricia Cornwell (Little Brown)	£15.99	2	3	
4	ISLAND OF THE DAY BEFORE Umberto Eco (Socker & Warburg)	£16.99	10	3	
5	THE HORSE WHISPERER Nicholas Evans (Bantam)	£14.99	1	2	
6	COME TO GRIEF Dick Francis (Michael Joseph)	£15.99	7	6	
7	THE GOBBLER Adrian Edmondson (Methuen)	£10	3	2	
8	CLEARED FOR TAKE-OFF Dirk Bogarde (Viking)	£16	0	1	
9	ENIGMA Robert Harris (Hutchinson)	£15.99	4	6	
10	PLAIN GIRL Arthur Miller (Methuen)	£10	0	1	
PAPERBACK					
1	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS David Guterson (Bloomsbury)	£5.99	1	5	
2	PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Jane Austen (Penguin)	£2.99	3	3	
3	WRITING HOME Alan Bennett (Faber)	£7.99	0	2	
4	FATHERLAND Robert Harris (Arrow)	£4.99	4	3	
5	BROTHER CADFAEL'S PENANCE Ellis Peters (Warner)	£4.99	7	2	
6	SIMISOLA Ruth Rendell (Arrow)	£4.99	9	2	
7	SON OF THE CIRCUS John Irving (Black Swan)	£7.99	5	7	
8	LONG WALK TO FREEDOM Nelson Mandela (Little Brown)	£5.99	0	1	
9	FAITH Len Deighton (HarperCollins)	£4.99	2	4	
10	THE BODY FARM Patricia Cornwell (Warner)	£5.99	6	16	
11	DAUGHTERS OF CAIN Colin Dexter (Pan)	£4.99	0	1	
12	THE MAKING OF PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Sue Birtwistle & Susy Conklin (Penguin)	£6.99	0	1	
13	TINKER'S GIRL Catherine Cookson (Corgi)	£4.99	11	2	
14	A CELESTINE PROPHECY James Redfield (Bantam)	£7.99	12	8	
15	PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT Dirk Bogarde (Penguin)	£5.99	0	1	
16	FINAL CUT Michael Dobbs (HarperCollins)	£5.99	0	1	
17	TRAINSPOTTING Irvine Welsh (Minerva)	£5.99	13	14	
18	TRUSS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW Peter Høeg (Flamingo)	£5.99	20	47	
19	SHOWDOWN AT CENTREPOINT Roger MacBride Allen (Bantam)	£4.99	3	2	
20	MADE IN AMERICA Bill Bryson (Minerva)	£6.99	0	15	

Any book from this list can be ordered from Dillons Mail Order Tel: 0171 626 1577 Fax: 0171 585 7680 DILLONS

Pets' corner

A DOG'S LIFE
By Peter Mayle
Hamilton, £7.99

MAKING THE CAT LAUGH
By Lynne Truss
Hamilton, £10.99

editor of *The Listener*. His Manhattan agent promptly told her that if he writes for less than \$50,000, attorney lawyers agitate.

The exchange, like much of the collection, is a small masterpiece of comedy. Hers is a single life but not that of a loner. When vexed, she never rages. With abundant close observation, the familiar is made fresh — from cats that prefer to sit beneath, rather than on, those furry, radiator-clinging beds to authors' jacket photographs "where all the personality and humour has been pulled out in strings through their nostrils".

Her own features a cat, owner out of focus in the background. A continual hoot, the book also persuades us that humans, at their best, are cat-like: essentially solitary, sometimes gregarious. Even so, Truss's book will surely prompt a line of suitors.

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

THE TIMES
Around the World in 80 Days £20,000 TOKEN 2 IN THE S

BOOKS

15

When you belong to Daddy

Frances Fyfield is deeply moved by the unsentimental memoir of an only child ministering to the dying ruin of her beloved father



Malcolm: accepting the difficulty of biographical truth

■ THE SILENT WOMAN:
Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath
By Janet Malcolm
Penguin, £9

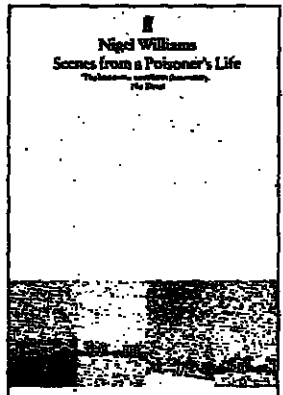
IN THIS curious and interesting book the American journalist Janet Malcolm explores the contradictions inherent in the writing of biography. Described as a "reasoned meditation", it is both a deconstructed biography and a fascinating piece of investigative journalism.

The case Malcolm investigates is that of the poet Sylvia Plath, whose suicide produced a torrent of biographies and memoirs, most of which met with strong opposition from Plath's husband Ted Hughes and his sister Olwyn. Through a series of interviews with those who knew and those who have

written about Plath, Malcolm explores different "versions" of the Silent Woman of the title, who can no longer do or say anything to change the attitudes into which she has been frozen.

She contrasts the memoirs of various friends and acquaintances, from Dido Morfin's aggrieved outpouring to Elizabeth Sigmund's loyal and flattering portrait, developing a theme that, since in biography there can be no "unmediated" truth, the "balanced" biography is impossible.

Her own portraits of the people she meets, despite her apparently moderate tone, are often real killers — which is what, rather than any theorising, makes this book such an uncomfortably gripping read.



■ SCENES FROM A POISONER'S LIFE
By Nigel Williams
Faber, £5.99

TWELVE linked stories survey a year in one of Wimbledon's smarter streets through the eyes of solicitor Henry Farr and his grotesque wife and daughter. In January Henry looks back on his bungled attempt to poison his wife and resolves to try to avoid killing anyone else. In February he falls in love with the girl in the newsgang. March brings forth a sudden outbreak of racist graffiti and Halloween provokes the street's very own serial killer. Meanwhile Henry and his family continue to struggle gamely to patch up the holes in their relationship. A blackly hilarious caricature of the dark side of suburbia.

■ ROLAND BARTHES
By Roland Barthes
Penguin, £10

ROLAND BARTHES, one of the most important intellectual figures in 20th-century France, here turns his formidable analytical skills in cultural analysis upon himself and his own life. Barthes takes the respectable bourgeois members of his childhood (he died in 1980 at the age of 65), his own work, his body and his passions and then theoretically, fascinatingly, unravels them. A grainy photograph, for example, of a solemn Edwardian child is given a single line that sums up a whole generation of expectations: "The father's sister: she was alone all her life". There can be no better introduction to Barthes than to read him on the subject of himself.



■ THE CONSTANT MISTRESS
By Angela Lambert
Penguin, £5.99

LAURA KING is 44, a rich and successful freelance interpreter, when she suddenly discovers she has a liver disease and that she will die within a year. Summoning her former lovers to dinner she asks each of them to look after her for a month. As she goes from lecturer to banker to Edouard and ex-hippie Joanna, she is able to live the full month, she has a chance to look back at her own life and see what she might have become. She is haunted, as she decays, by the one dreadful secret that convinces her she deserves to die. A sharply observed and thought-provoking novel.

Contributors: Hazel Leslie, Fiona Hook, Jake Michie, Lucy Lethbridge, Jason Cowley

■ THE THOUGHT GANG
By Tibor Fischer
Minerva, £6.99

CAUGHT in flagrante in his Cambridge rooms Eddie Coffin, a dissolute philosophy professor, flies to France to avoid the ensuing scandal. Here he encounters Hubert, a one-armed bandit. Short of cash, they form an alliance robbing banks and discussing on the nature of personal freedom. The idea is fun, but Fischer gets bogged down in his learned digressions. A disappointing follow-up to his Booker shortlisted novel, *Under the Frog*.

■ IT ALL ADDS UP
By Saul Bellow
Penguin, £6.99

ALTHOUGH a panel of British writers voted Bellow the world's greatest living novelist last year, his dense tales of Jewish urban life are not as widely known in this country as they might be. He is a writer's writer, admired for his language which combines street vernacular with high mandarin, and these essays provide a useful introduction to his work. The true role of art, he says, is to reveal aesthetic bliss: its enemy is distraction. His attack on the "moronic inferno" of the American media and the information overload of modern life is blistering.

■ BLOOD ON THE TRACKS
A Rail Journey from Angola to Mozambique
By Miles Bredin
Picador, £6.99

ACCOMPANIED by the photographer Harriet Logan, Bredin arrived in Angola in the autumn of 1992, quickly becoming caught up in the country's perpetual civil war. Confined to his hotel room, he watched from his window as rival troops rampaged and murdered. From there, he moved on to Zaire, and then into Zambia, Namibia, Zimbabwe and finally Mozambique. With its potted histories of troubled nations and its rage at the way "the west has crippled Africa" with debt, this is a fine introduction to the complexities of the "frontline" states.

■ THE GREAT LEONARD
Rossiter may have left us, but the immortality of Reginald Perrin was never in question. David Nobbs, one of our funniest novelists, has kept his spirit alive and, in *The Legacy of Reginald Perrin*, reminds us that there is still a place in the 1990s for Perrin's rare kind of lunacy.

It is the present day, and poor Reginald has finally passed away for good. Not this time the mysterious clothes on the beach and a new identity for the putative suicide. Reggie has died after a horrendous accident in which a sign advertising his own life insurance company fell on his head, but he is determined to have the last laugh from beyond the grave.

All the cast of the famous television comedy congregate for the reading of the will. There is his wife Elizabeth, his

THE dying of a parent is an underrated tragedy, reviewed here by a poet in a poetic, freeze-frame style so visual that it may seem both self-conscious and at odds with the harshness of the experience. It works because the powerful vignettes parallel the paralysed moments of the present with memories as bright and sweet as childish fruit gums.

"When people asked me which of my parents I preferred, I always said my father." This refrain, repeated occasionally throughout a moving, although never sentimental, memoir, coincides with moments in a loosely connected narrative where the father, now old, weepy, shuffling and forget-

ful, is driving his only child into a state of premature dementia. Oh, for an easier death, instead of which it is the daughter who exists in an almost hallucinatory state of grief and irritation.

Father is widowed, inconsolable; she ferries him about in his own car, first to and from his house, then his nursing home, herself frantically practical, even when beset with images of the days when he was behind the wheel and centre of the

■ DRIVING MY FATHER
By Susan Wicks
Faber & Faber, £9.99

universe. Instead of the diminished, sometimes selfish creature he is now, Daughter is not always quite herself; she is haunted by her mother; their two personas merge; daughter has dreams of death and violence; she has finally lost her innocence.

Mother, to her husband's delight, was soft and big-bosomed, born for

the business of caring, creating with thrift a home full of stimulating, never stultifying, warmth. She washed out polythene bags, made lists on pieces of cardboard, never shouting, ever curious. Father was a small body, loyal to his bones, dab hand with a knife, part-time musician in a dance band, bringing back mementoes of the evening for his child, along with constant surprises, stories, jokes. One birthday card to his wife was recycled every year, a

constant token of love. "Did you see Eric's?" she would say, half affectionate and half amused, giving it pride of place. Father was the rock, mother the foundation.

The adult child sees in hindsight who was the stronger, but there are no shameful conclusions for a pair who created such intensely interesting tranquillity. Dysfunctional parents are the common stuff of fiction; this slim volume is a celebration of the opposite, and the aftertaste is the privilege of knowing them. What an absolutely marvellous man was this father, how generous his wife, and how proud this daughter will be at the end of this rite of passage.

Scholarly outing of the ordinary

■ THE WAY WE ARE
By Margaret Visser
Viking, £14

HOW many of us think of Father Christmas — Santa Claus, in Margaret Visser's North American parlance — as "a fertility figure, and grossly phallic"? Or know that knitting existed as far back as the 7th century, the Egyptians being wont to produce "Coptic socks"?

Anyone familiar with Visser's work will immediately recognise her stamp. *The Way We Are*, like *Much Depends on Dinner* and *The Rituals of Dinner*, sets out to make the ordinary extraordinary by enticing the reader to take a hard second look at objects and customs we all take for granted. In this way she hopes "to bring not them but ourselves, the users, more sharply into focus".

The book is a collection of brief but incisive essays on anything from baked beans to beards, from synaesthesia to stockings. Visser is a fine historian as well as a social analyst; she knows it is not enough to draw attention to the risqué implications of a fat man sliding down a narrow chimney; she provides the background to make her argument convincing.

She writes with a wry humour, and very rarely slips into the glibly sociological that calls a menu "a semiotic construct". It encapsulates a meal by drawing attention to the inherent ranking and order of the proceedings.

Part of the pleasure of these essays is their very brevity: Visser understands that there is only so much one wants to know about swimsuits, high heels, mahogany or avocados, no matter how fascinating a writer is able to make them. But should you wish to know more, she has thoughtfully provided a bibliography for each essay, and some of these are marvellous in their own right. What a joy to know that one can acquire, from the Princeton Architectural Press, Lupton and Miller's monograph *The Bathroom, The Kitchen and the Aesthetics of Waste: A Process of Elimination* (1992).

Visser's range of knowledge is vast, and her scholarship — as befits an accomplished Classicist — is sublime. These essays are fine sweetmeats to accompany the larger banquet of her books, and can be read with the same wonder felt by a group of 14th-century physicians who dissected the corpse of an unloving woman: "they found a foule orbile lode within her body, that grappled her herte with her gawes, whereof they were hugely amazed".

ERICA WAGNER



Marching to the killing fields: implacable determination on the faces of the Khmer Rouge

Madam Speaker's slow rise to prominence is a lesson in perseverance, says Gerald Kaufman

Betty finds the Commons touch

■ MADAM SPEAKER: THE LIFE OF BETTY BOOTHROYD
By Paul Routledge
HarperCollins, £18

Dewsbury complaining of a bad leg. Political success — though it did arrive eventually — was very slow in coming. Boothroyd, defeated as a candidate for Dewsbury council, went on to four more defeats in parliamentary elections before reaching the Commons. Though she first stood for Parliament at the age of 28, she did not get there until she was 43. She went on to suffer several further defeats before eventually winning a place on the Labour Party's national executive committee.

Moreover, Routledge shows, not only did Boothroyd not rise to prominence as if on fairy wings; when she obtained positions of authority, she did not behave like Titania, either. As a Labour MP, she held that rare (and ruthless) position for a woman, a party whip. On the national executive, she was a hatchet-woman of Labour's right wing, wielding a nifty axe to decapitate Militants and other miscreants.

Even though, as the candidate (unsuccessful, of course) for Peterborough, she won local notoriety for wearing see-through nighties, and although *Elle* magazine reminded that as a young woman she "oozed sex", it is not for the softer feminine qualities that Boothroyd has acquired her formidable reputation as Speaker. Routledge reports that her manner in the chair has been likened to that of a barmaid or even a fishwife.

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Boothroyd: manner of a fishwife?

For myself, I see her as Parliament's Ena Sharples, never more effective than when giving some unfortunate MP a (no doubt deserved) dressing-down. For Boothroyd is not only the first woman to become Speaker, she is also the first Speaker to become a soap-opera star.

How Reggie got where he is today



Leonard Rossiter as Perrin

THE GREAT Leonard Rossiter may have left us, but the immortality of Reginald Perrin was never in question. David Nobbs, one of our funniest novelists, has kept his spirit alive and, in *The Legacy of Reginald Perrin*, reminds us that there is still a place in the 1990s for Perrin's rare kind of lunacy.

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All the cast of the famous television comedy congregate for the reading of the will. There is his wife Elizabeth, his

■ THE LEGACY OF REGINALD PERRIN
By David Nobbs
Methuen, £10

mous Grot shops. And there is a cool million for all his former friends and associates, on one condition: they must do something genuinely absurd.

At first they go about it in a half-hearted manner, with proposals of marriage to the gorgeous but unattainable ex-curtain of the will, lewd fancy dress and naked public appearances, but hearts are not in it. Then they realise that they must give in to the incorrigible spirit of Perrin and create an immortal monument to his famed ridiculousness. The cast is now in its seventies, and a march on Whitehall is planned, involving thousands of pensioners, to demand new rights for the aged by mass action.

The narrative is not watertight, and tends to drag through the middle of the book, but there are glorious memories of Perrin here, huge one-liners and little jokes that remind you just why it was so funny the first time around. Read it, if only to find out why CJ "didn't get where I am today by sounding like a cheese", and what R.I.P. had in store for his cronies at the very last.

GILES COREN

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Piers Paul Read
on Mother Teresa
Paul Barker on
murderers

Visit National Savings

a tax-free zone

Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

TRAVEL

17

WEEKEND BREAKS: Bradford is sitting on a cultural gold mine, though it doesn't seem to realise it

Cook's tour to the heart of curry country

Mumtaz K. Akbar has just bought the signwriter's shop next door to his restaurant in Bradford. He had to pay over the odds but then what was he to do, turning away so many customers? Business is booming. Mumtaz's younger brother Gulnaz even gave up a career as a neurologist to help with the burgeoning frozen-food line.

Mumtaz Paan House is one of 70 Asian restaurants in Bradford. Paan is the name of the leaf on which aromatic spices and herbs are served (the same spices usually come with the bill in those Asian restaurants that haven't sold out to the after-dinner mint).

When Mumtaz's parents arrived in Bradford, along with thousands of Pakistani and Bengali mill workers during the 1950s, his mother set up a small paan shop selling sweets and savouries, just like the ones at home. From these small beginnings she made an increasingly good living serving delicious, freshly cooked food.

I'll admit that I went to Bradford looking for a foreign country. I also went to find out why it is that, although details of how to spend a "Flavours of Asia" weekend are available to the visitor, the city seems relatively indifferent to the gastronomic and cultural gold mine on which it is sitting.

Naturally this indifference pre-dates the riots this summer, which have bruised Bradford's reputation

for exemplary community relations, but I got the feeling that guided tours of "Emmerdale Country" and the exquisite tedium of watching boats negotiate Five Rise Locks were probably easier tourist options to sell than all the riches of the Asian subcontinent that are salted away in the streets of Bradford.

Many of these riches are on display in Bombay Stores, an exotic wholesale/retail shop the size of an aircraft hangar, which is stuffed with rolls of silk, chiffon, crepe de

The store sells mixers straight out of the 1950s

brothered waistcoats and cotton tunics. The cookery department sells Joyful Life food mixers straight out of the 1950s for £20, fashionable cast-iron Balm dishes, stainless steel dishes and boxes, and plates and trays the size of wagon wheels on which to serve a feast.

At Al-Halal supermarket — the largest Asian food shop in Europe — there's a terrific trade in spices and herbs: big bags of black peppercorns and cardamom pods, fenugreek and dhal pulses. You can buy the mustard oil that gives Kashmiri and Bengali food its special character, and more exotic goods such as jackfruit, bitter melon and kenda water for making



All the subcontinent's riches are on Bradford's streets, including the fruit, vegetables, spices and oils that create the flavours of Asia

sweets. To ask a question in this shop is to invite a whole lesson in cooking — go in not knowing a curry from a custard cream and you'll come out with an armful of spices, a pot for cooking them in, and advice on everything from heating ghee to keeping your papadums crispy.

The intense colour and smell of these Asian stores is, in some ways, at odds with the Yorkshire greenness of Bradford. It's like seeing the flash of a vibrant silk saree under a very British car.

Times Salt, the Victorian industrialist whose massive mill three miles from the city centre at Saltaire now houses a David Hockney gallery, would, as a lifelong teetotaler dedicated to "industry and virtue" surely have approved of the care with which these Asian stores are run.

There are, of course, plenty of side-shows on a Flavours of Asia weekend. The jewel in the crown

for tourism in Bradford city centre is the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, which is doubly laudable for being free to visitors. This summer saw the opening of an £11-million transport attraction called Transperience, which is part museum and part theme park.

But to the dedicated Asian foodie these are just interruptions be-

tween meals. On good recommendation I sampled two other restaurants after the Mumtaz Paan House. The Bombay Brasserie (which claims it had the name before the chic London restaurant opened) is housed in a converted classical Unitarian church (Titus might have raised an eyebrow at this). Inside this honey-coloured stone building is a lavish dining

room, all lanterns and curly backed chairs. Behind a glass partition at the back of the room a chef works at a genuine tandoori oven. At the other end of the scale, the Kashmir restaurant has a separate basement eatery which is the Asian equivalent of a worker's canteen. The emphasis here is on generous portions of delicious meat and vegetable curries which you eat with a folded chapati (although you can ask for a fork, if you must).

There's a city within a city in Bradford waiting to be explored. There's food, shopping, entertainment and opportunities to meet across cultures, but it needs a bit more organisation if it is all to be open to a wider public. The least the city can do is to get its best Asian restaurateurs together and publish a book of their recipes. In the meantime, here are two from Mumtaz (see right).

SUSAN MARLING

MUMTAZ'S RECIPES

KARACHI ALOO GHOBHI

Cauliflower and potato curry

(Preparation, 15 minutes.

Cooking, 30 minutes.

Serves four)

You will need:

4 large tomatoes

2 large potatoes, peeled and cut into 1in pieces

1 large cauliflower, cut into small pieces

5-6tbsp olive oil

salt to taste

coriander for garnishing

To be ground into paste (use liquidiser)

5 green chillies

6-7 cloves of garlic

25mm piece of ginger

3 cardamoms

8-10 pepper corns

1 tsp cumin seeds

1½ tsp chilli powder

Boil tomatoes in hot water for 10 minutes. Grate into a puree. Heat the oil and fry onions until golden brown.

Add the paste and fry for 3-4 minutes. Add the cauliflower, potatoes, turmeric powder and 1½ cups of water. Cover and cook for 10-12 minutes.

Remove lid and carry on stirring for 2-3 minutes. Add tomato puree and salt and cook until the oil floats.

Sprinkle on the coriander. Serve with nan or rice.

CHICKEN TIKKA

You will need:

Four chicken breast fillets cut into 1½in squares

1½ tsp red chilli powder

salt to taste

1 tsp saffron diluted in 2tbsp of hot water

1 cup fresh lemon juice

½ cup olive oil

To be made into paste

1 onion

2in ginger

2 cloves garlic

Mix all ingredients together and marinate chicken. Leave to stand for 3-4 hours, or overnight, in the fridge. To cook: lay chicken pieces in an oven tray, cover with any remaining marinade. Cook on high heat under grill, or in oven, until chicken is tender.

Bradford fact file

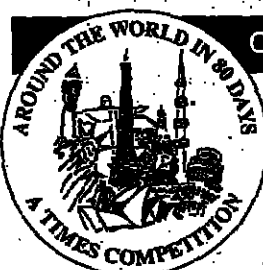
□ The author was a guest at the recently opened Victoria Hotel (01274 726706). Fri/Sat nights £35 (room only).

□ For information on Flavours of Asia weekends contact Emma Leech on 01274 752180.

□ InterCity East Coast serves Bradford. Apex fares from London cost £28 return.

□ Restaurants: Mumtaz Paan House, 386-96 Gr Horton Road (01274 571861); Bombay Brasserie: Simes Street, off Westgate (01274 73564); Kashmir: 27 Morley Street (01274 726513).

□ Shops: Bombay Stores, Shearbridge Road (01274 729993); Al Halal Supermarket, Panorama House, Woodbridge Road (01274 736294).



COLLECT 30 TOKENS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN £20,000 CASH FOR AN 80-DAY HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME — PLUS SAVE 10% ON ALL HOLIDAYS FEATURED

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Today and every day until the end of December, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two. There is also an opportunity to win £20,000 cash for an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Our series of 80 holidays around the world includes a range of short breaks, tours, cruises and adventures — trips worth more than £150,000 in total. So far readers have been able to win exciting holidays to Brazil, Machu Picchu, Sri Lanka and St Petersburg.

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Today's prize is a superb holiday to the Caribbean. Other holidays to look forward to in the coming weeks include Egypt, the Lebanon, Jordan and Israel with Cox & Kings; the inaugural cruise of their new ship, *Minerva*, with Swan Hellenic and voyages to Bermuda or Alaska with Celebrity Cruises.

You will also have the chance to win holidays in Singapore, Thailand or Malaysia with Simply Tropix and trips to Chicago or California with United Vacations.

Every day we will feature one holiday, with details of prices, savings, departure dates and how you could win it.



Sun, sea, sand — the Caribbean has a lot to offer the world weary traveller

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There are a number of tour operators collaborating on this Around the World adventure: but

to get brochures for any of the holidays we feature, you should either ring the brochure hotline below or write to: The Times Brochure Service, PO Box 9, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8QQ and quote reference 3.

All bookings for any of the 80 holidays featured must be made through Cox & Kings, the sole booking agents, before February 28, 1996. All other terms and conditions relating to these holiday competitions and offers are contained in the brochures.

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By collecting 30 of the 80 tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until December 28, you have the chance to win £20,000 cash to spend on an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

The winner will be helped to plan an itinerary by Cox & Kings, the world's oldest travel company, founded in 1758. In addition to operating special tours in Europe, they remain one of the UK's premier specialists in long haul travel.

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The Times/Sunday Times Holiday of a Lifetime Competition, Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN. A maximum of four tokens can be supplied per application.



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You can enjoy a variety of water sports at the Almond Beach Village or be busy doing nothing by the pool

Today's prize, worth more than £1,500 for two people, is a seven-night holiday, with Caribbean Connection, at the Almond Beach Village, Barbados, on the favoured west coast of the island, often called the Platinum Coast because of its superb beaches. The price is all-inclusive: all meals, house wine, unlimited bar drinks, nightly entertainment, a full children's programme, all sports facilities, service charges, portage and gratuities.

The complex has been designed for families with facilities which include a nine-hole golf course, squash and tennis courts, nine swimming pools and plenty of entertainment for children. For visitors with lots of energy, the choice of windsurfing, snorkelling around coral reefs, fishing, water skiing or sailing will keep them occupied. Those who prefer nothing more strenuous than drinking a refreshing Bajan speciality, sunbathing and swimming in the aquamarine sea, will find this resort is perfect.

But it would be a pity to go all that way and not explore some of the interesting sights Barbados has to offer.

Take a picnic and visit one of the sugar plantation houses: go for a walk through the flower forest where walking sticks are provided and benches placed at strategic intervals or explore the famous Harrison Caves.

If you are feeling self-indulgent, there are colourful markets and duty-free shopping in Bridgetown.

DATES OF DEPARTURES: From May 1-July 19, 1996, or September 9-November 30, 1996. Prices from £828, a saving of £92 per person, include return flights with Britannia Airways from London or Manchester.

If you want to book today's holiday, taking advantage of our exclusive 10 per cent discount, call the brochure hotline on:

01369 70 77 11.

Please allow 14 days for delivery of your brochure.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win today's prize of a holiday to the Caribbean, phone your answers to the two questions below on our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 before midnight tonight. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times. The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

THE QUESTIONS

1. What is the west coast of Barbados sometimes called?
2. What is the name of the famous caves on Barbados?

THE TIMES
Around
the World
in 80 Days
£20,000
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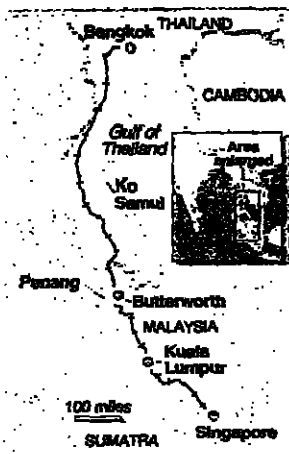
IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW: WIN A HOLIDAY TO JAMAICA

SOUTH-EAST ASIA: Michael Binyon boards the luxurious Eastern and Orient Express to Bangkok

Malaysian railway journey from a vanished age

In an age of package holidays and frequent-flyer miles, a great railway journey conjures up the elegance and nostalgia of a lost age: luxury, langour, comfort and class, echoes of Noël Coward and Somerset Maugham, the smells of the market and the sight of the setting sun.

Few such journeys are now possible: steam has vanished, rail networks across the world are crumbling, and only the very rich or very poor have time to travel in the old-fashioned way. But there is money in nostalgia, as televised railway journeys have shown, and the Venice-Simpson Orient Express has proved. Of all the routes none could be more luxurious or more spectacular than the Eastern and Orient Express—1,943km through the Malaysian jungle from Singapore to Bangkok.



Even at Singapore it was clear that this would be no ordinary journey. The cast of an Agatha Christie mystery gathered in the humid afternoon on the platform, incongruous in fashionable casual clothes. Officials checked lists,

porters guarded smart luggage, carriage attendants, waiters, chefs and barmen, in trim green uniform and brocade, lined up to bow to the passengers being escorted to their carriages.

We boarded around tea-time. Each compartment was a vanished world of style: panelled with polished mahogany, air-conditioned, an illusion of space created by the patterned upholstery, large curtained windows, cupboards and tables, a basket of fruit and flowers, quaintly illustrated route map and brochures for the railway buff. The en-suite bathroom with shower had all the soaps and unguents of any first-class hotel.

Our attendant brought tea on a silver tray—sandwiches, chocolate cake, china cups with China tea. The train, 24 carriages long, was by now trundling through the out-



Crossing the Bukit Merah Lake on a stylish, old-fashioned journey composed of fine food, panelled compartments and gin and tonics at the bar

skirts of Singapore and soon arrived at the old causeway with Malaysia. Outside it was hot, humid and green, as the train, at a steady 50mph, passed forests of rubber trees interspersed with oil palms.

We began to explore: the saloon with its sofas, lamps, dark wood, travel books and magazines; the bar car, airy and bright with bamboo furniture and a piano for after-dinner entertainment; the boutique selling scarves, cufflinks and monogrammed E&O jewellery; and, best of all, the open rear observation car with its roof, teak floor and brass railings over which you could lean and watch the single narrow-gauge track disappear into the evening.

There were two sittings for dinner, a formal affair for which we dressed up to complement the elegance of the dining car: low lighting, silver cutlery, cut glass and a superb five-course meal. The Belgian chef, who prepares everything freshly en route, was a master at spicing European cuisine with a hint of Thai—lemon grass, ginger and saffron rice. In the bar car afterwards, the passengers—mainly Germans, Americans, a few British and Japanese tentatively getting to know each other—were entertained by John Michael Swinbank, a leading exponent of Coward who happened to be on board.

At 11pm the train pulls into Kuala Lumpur station, an exotic array of Victorian domes and Moorish turrets marooned in the middle of a gleaming modern capital. The E&O—the first through train to run all the way to Bangkok, and a boon to Malaysian tourism—has priority on the long, single line. But though the track was rebuilt after wartime devastation, it is hardly the smooth ride that makes for a peaceful night.

However inviting the turned-down beds looked, they could not cushion the vagaries



The Sri Mariamman temple on the island of Penang

of the track. As one German remarked ruefully next morning: "I have never spent so much to sleep so badly."

The next morning the train reaches Butterworth—the junction with Thai railways—and the E&O makes a virtue of the need to refuel and turn around. Passengers disembark for a three-hour trip by ferry and rickshaw to Penang, the ancient island colony that appears to have changed little since Queen Victoria's day. Then it is on through the rugged, narrow Thai peninsula: more jungle, more fine food, more gin and tonic at the bar until the day has slipped agreeably away.

By 9am the train is pulling into the outskirts of Bangkok: poor, teeming and polluted, but with brilliant lotus flowers everywhere and smiling children still excited to see the luxury train roll past with the passengers hanging out at the back, sheepish at the vast disparity in wealth.

The E&O has no institutional link with the Mandarin Oriental hotel group, but the coincidence of name is a happy one: many of the guests are collected by white-gloved chauffeurs from the hubbub of Bangkok station and whisked to the extraordinary luxury of the Bangkok Oriental, the renowned hotel, founded in

1876, that regularly wins the *Business Traveller* nomination as the world's best.

Even if you do not book into the spectacular refurbished authors' suites, you can still enjoy the Oriental's riverside gardens, gourmet Thai restaurant on the other side of the river, private tours of the klongs, Thai culinary classes, and pampering with herbal wraps, aromatherapy and hydromassage at the new Health and Beauty Centre (including the last word in body care, the "Pre-Nuptial Pampering" at \$474 [about £300] per person). Given the smog, heat and traffic gridlock that makes modern Bangkok so oppressive, marooning yourself in the Oriental is a holiday in itself.

The acme of Asian luxury travel, however, must surely be the new island resort of Koh Samui in the Gulf of Thailand. Baan Taling Ngam is the newly built Oriental resort that cascades down a cliff and is perhaps the nearest the tired executive can come to achieving the dream-like relaxation of advertisements: a long sweep of golden sand, coconut palms waving in the breeze, sunset over the distant isles, fresh fish fried around the lower pool, and individual villas decorated in traditional Thai style.

There are, of course, all the sports, services, bars, restaurants and boating tours that any lively couple could want; but for me the abiding sensations were the joy of floating in the cliff-top pool beyond which the valley falls away in a sea of palms, and ambling along the deserted beach by the coconuts, with only the occasional grunted fisherman to give a broad smile.



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E&O Express — fact file

□ The author was a guest of Laura Air, E&O Express and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group (reservations 0800 963667), which has 14 properties worldwide and two resorts in Thailand. Laura Air (0171-630 5924) flies four times a week to Bangkok. □ A two-bed sleeper on E&O Express (0171-428 6003) costs £820 one way. Operators include Abercrombie and Kent, Austravel, British Airways Holidays, Elegant Resorts, Koozi, Simply Tropix and Travelbag.

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WEEKEND BREAK: The colours, canals and new opera house contribute to the romance of Gothenburg

A breath of Swedish air

If you are one of the millions who watched last year's World Athletics Championships from Gothenburg, you may have wondered if there was anything more to be seen beyond the television cameras' fixation with the Ullevi Stadium. The answer is much more. Gothenburg is Sweden's second main city, an important trading centre but of comfortable size — around half a million people — sparsely set out with all the sophistication of a larger metropolis but with none of the shortcomings, such as clogging exhaust fumes and rubbish in the streets.

The Swedes are blessed with a passion for keeping things clean and tidy. One of my earliest memories of the country is of a visit to Stockholm when I watched a late-night reveller weave and stagger along the pavement, a single purpose in what was left of his mind: to drop his beer can into a bin. That achieved, he collapsed into happy oblivion.

Anyway, Gothenburg is a breath of fresh air. And not so cold, either, despite its northern latitude. The Gulf Stream has a gently warming effect, bringing an early summer that can remain dry and bright until October.

Gothenburg is distinctly 19th-century, with broad avenues and green spaces created by Dutch architects who oversaw the reconstruction of the city after a devastating fire. For the older, traditional Swedish clapperboard homes, wander away from the centre towards Hagagatan, where there are wooden houses edging cobbled streets.

There are more of the same, but in a romantic setting, on in-shore islands such as Tjörn, which is connected to the mainland by an S-shape suspension bridge. The villages on the north coastline — where the fishermen's houses crowd the rocky shoreline of grey boulders, tightly packed like solidified bubbles — are essentially part of the Swedish scene as the great pine forests.

If the Dutch influence on Gothenburg is apparent — there is even a canal network, although nowadays it is mostly used by pleasure boats — the British connection is also a potent force. Partly, it is a matter of linguistic convenience. English here is not so much a second language as an alternative first language. There need be no inhibitions in asking a passerby for directions. Even the name Gothenburg is an Anglo-Saxon corruption of the genuinely Swedish Göteborg — pronounced 'Yuh-tyeh-Borry'.



Milles's Poseidon fountain in the Götaplatsen

But the real strength of the hyphen in Anglo-Swedish is the shared heritage of two seafaring nations. In the heyday of ocean-going windjammers, there was a regular two-way convoy between Gothenburg and Britain's east-coast ports. Trading links remain strong, but today the shipping business has moved out to the container terminals. This leaves the harbour at the mouth of the River Göta free for development as a residential and leisure area. This is where the city has put a magnificent opera house.

If the managers of Covent Garden want to know how to reconstruct their dilapidated structure, they could not do better than hotfoot it to Gothenburg. The architect Jan Erik Söderberg has taken the sea as his inspiration, creating a structure with all the grace of a luxury liner. Forget what happens on stage for a moment, the building itself is a thrill, not least from the inside looking out over its panoramic waterscape.

I saw *The Flying Dutchman* from the centre stalls, where the performance had to compete for attention with the auditorium, all clean lines and

clear views, a model of functional beauty.

The opera season runs for just over nine months, from mid-August to early June, with a programme that takes in operas and contemporary musicals. What is open all year round is the Opera House restaurant, one of several on the harbour where the 'fruits from the sea' can be enjoyed.

It would be sacrilege not to eat fish in Gothenburg. The early morning auctions testify to the quality of the daily catch. Piscators who prefer a more leisurely beginning to the day might relish the choice at the Fish Church on the Rosenlund Canal, a covered market recognisable by its clerical appearance.

The choice of fish restaurants extends beyond the harbour and the city, to the cluster of islands that make up Gothenburg's archipelago. In town I enjoyed the Barken Viking, a floating hotel and restaurant, where the cooking is done by students, and a newish restaurant, Broderne Dahlborn, on Kungsgatan, where the baked scallops have to be tasted to be believed.

The cheapest fish snack,



obtainable everywhere, is a plate of fresh shrimps and an ice-cold beer. But watch out for Swedish beer. It is produced in four grades of alcoholic strengths, the lowest of which tastes of mild detergent.

Many of the best things to see and do in Gothenburg are associated with the sea. On the harbour close to the opera house is the maritime centre, a veritable fleet of historic vessels moored together to make what is claimed to be the world's largest floating museum. Down river is the maritime museum, with its collection of ship models of every size, age and distinction. You can tell you are near the museum when you see the Sailors' Monument, a woman staring longingly out to sea from the dizzy height of a Roman column.

Across the harbour, ten minutes by ferry, they are busy transforming the old shipyards, once the heart of Gothenburg's prosperity, a role now taken by Volvo and SKF. The empty docks, clearly identified from a distance by the massive Eriksberg gantry crane, are the site of the biggest ever Viking exhibition (open until March 17, 1996).

Close by is shipbuilding of a type not seen for more than 200 years. They are building a replica of the *Götheborg*, an 18th-century, three-masted windjammer which sank just outside the harbour entrance. The spot is marked off the island fortress of Alvsborg, where marine archaeologists are diving for the remains of the *Götheborg's* cargo. What they have recovered so far is on permanent display at the maritime museum.

Back to the city centre for a stroll up Kungälvsgatan, better known as Avenyn, or the Avenue, a long, sloping boulevard which melds turn-of-the-century merchants' houses with more impersonal modern blocks. At the top is Götaplatsen, the cultural centre of Gothenburg, where a theatre, concert hall and art gallery make three sides of a square.

At first sight, attention fastens on the centrepiece, a gigantic Milles fountain sculpture of the sea god Poseidon,

with, beyond, the art-gallery facade, a row of tall arches approached by palatial steps — an uncomfortable and daunting mix of art nouveau with old-fashioned municipal grandeur. The contents are something else.

For those who imagine that Edward Munch says it all, there is a delight in store. With artists such as Anders Zorn, Carl Larsson, Karl Nordstrom and Richard Bergh, we are looking at the work of an original group of artists whose reputation has been smothered by French Impressionism. These painters are dreamers and romantics capturing their subjects in the unique grey and greens of the Nordic landscape. Richard Bergh's portrait of a couple on a balcony looking out over a lake in the blue hours of dusk is typical of the style.

For those who prefer a lighter form of culture, Liseberg, Gothenburg's amusement park and biggest tourist attraction, is five minutes' walk from the Götaplatsen. The dare-devil rides are there, of course, but also four open-air stages for quality concerts, and a choice of restaurants that alone would do credit to an entire resort.

Gothenburg has one other virtue. It is a multichoice springboard for an extended holiday. To the north are the hills, forests and fjords of Bohuslän; to the south the sandy beaches of Halland. Best of all is a leisurely trip across country by riverboat steamer. It goes up the Göta River, across Vänern (Sweden's largest lake), through the



The Göta Canal, part of a 300-mile trip across Sweden which does not touch dry land

Göta Canal, over Lake Vättern and then back on to the canal to Lake Røen and the coastal town of Östlövåsa. The boat then finds its way inland again via the Södertälje Canal and Lake Mälaren which links directly with Stockholm.

That's 300 miles in three days from one side of the country to the other without every having to set foot on dry land. The ultimate relaxation.

BARRY TURNER

Sweden travel facts

- The author was a guest of SAS Holiday World (0141-951 8988). Two nights in Gothenburg, including flights and B&B costs from £289 (from £305 in the Radisson SAS Park Avenue Hotel). Scandinavian Airlines (0171-734 4020) flies direct from Heathrow and regional airports via Copenhagen (Oslo).
- NSR Travel (0171-930 6666) has six nights on the Göta Canal (including two in Stockholm, three on the steamer and one in Gothenburg) for £885, including flights, B&B hotels and full-board on the Göta Canal.
- Further information from the Swedish Travel and Tourism Council, 11 Monagu Place, London W1H 2AL (0171-724 5869).

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Q: Shouldn't travel broaden the mind rather than the waistband?

?

ISLANDS: Louis de Bernières sees Suffolk in Mauritius and Leslie Thomas finds Switzerland on Réunion

"IT'S JUST like Suffolk," I said, as we drove from the airport.

"Suffolk?" my companions asked with surprise.

"Well, Suffolk is quite flat, with field after field of sugar beet. Mauritius is quite flat with field after field of sugar cane."

There are, of course, a few points of difference. Mauritius has some eccentric mountains, the remains of the original volcano, that look as though they were designed by children. Grey volcanic rocks, shaped like ziggurats, rise through the red topsoil.

The roads are lined with flamboyant scarlet trees and frangipani. Poinsettia, hibiscus, bougainvillea and oleander bloom everywhere. Mynah birds swoop in the sky and mongeese hide halfheartedly in the hedgerows as we pass.

"Yes," my companions agreed mockingly, "very like Suffolk," as we listened to the frogs' soporific chorus that night.

The island is encircled by a reef, and most hotels on Mauritius have

As the lady in BhS said, it's paradise

been built along the coast, because the weather is warmer and drier there than on the inland plateau where tea is grown.

The brilliant coral sands of the beaches are embellished by the occasional honey-brown tourist, resting between dives into the lagoons.

I spent hour after hour, snorkelling amid the coral, entranced by the assortment of exuberantly coloured fish. My favourite was a fat brown one which squabbled bitterly with its neighbours over possession of coral branches. When I arrived, it would sally out to challenge me, realise my size, and quickly nip home.

Many of these fish are edible, and are served with unlimited quantities of tropical fruit. The cuisine of the island reflects the ethnic mix of its people. A girl in a bookshop told me there was no



The island's rich ethnic mix happily results in religious tolerance, exotic foods and many festivals

point in buying a cookbook because, to cook in the Mauritian style, all I had to do was make any kind of dish from anywhere and put lots of spices in it. I bought one anyway, and found out later that she had been right. I was unrel-

ably informed that there are 57 religions on the island, but it is true that Europeans, Chinese, Africans, Hindus and Tamils all practice their own faiths here, from Islam to Roman Catholicism, with exemplary mutual tolerance, and happily

celebrate one another's festivals. At one time, there were so many religious holidays that the economy was endangered and a council had to be called to rationalise the merrymaking.

Tamil celebration of Cavadee on January 17. Beside a river, in front of portable shrines garlanded with flowers, I saw a young girl convulsively possessed by her God, while men pierced silver pins through their tongues and people danced on shoes made of nails. I was informed that there would also, of course, be fire-walking.

The different races are united, linguistically, by Creole. They also speak English, French and whatever tongue was spoken by their ancestors — for this is a nation of entirely immigrant origin. Evidence of the seaborne origins of the island's peoples can be seen inside the older Mauritian buildings. When you enter, look up and you will see elaborate systems of beams that were constructed, not by carpenters, but by shipwrights. The skeleton of the church near the botanical gardens at

Pamplemousse is simply an inverted ship.

Today, shipbuilding skills are employed in crafting perfect wooden models of historical vessels, such as the *Victory*, the *Constitution* and the *Royal Louis*, which may be bought for substantial sums by anyone who thinks they can get one home without breaking the spars and making a bird's nest of the rigging.

I didn't try. Instead, I brought home memories of superb weather, clean water, Chinese, Indian and French cuisine, seafood and unlimited fruit of fishing, water skiing, snorkelling and scuba diving of exotic birds stealing food from my table, frogs croaking at night, and the mongeese under my bedroom window. And, to the woman in BhS, who told me, before I flew home, "It's paradise", I have to say, "You're right."

© Louis de Bernières's novel *Captain Correll's Mandolin* was this week awarded the Commonwealth Writers Prize.

Details

□ The author was a guest of Elegant Resorts 01244-697889, The Old Palace, Chester CH1 1RB and Air Mauritius 0171-434 4375. He stayed at Le Saint Geran Hotel. Seven nights in a deluxe double room cost from £2,150 per person half-board, including return flights.

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ISLANDS

Voodoo under the volcanoes

So tall are the mountains of the island of Réunion that in the southern winter they are topped with snow. Up there are alpine villages of wood, awesome gorges and cold rivers: a small Switzerland in the Indian Ocean.

On the flight from Mauritius it seems as though the plane is approaching not one, but two, islands: one floating above the other. The false isle, a mirage formed by the heads of the central massif, rises beyond the clouds. The real Réunion lies far below against the green ocean.

There is limited room for roads on Réunion: some curl bravely into the hills but the main route hugs the coast in a 300-kilometre oval. The place is crisscrossed with cars and as their headlights circle at night, the shape of the isle looks from the air like a necklace.

Reunion is very French, though occupied by Britain at intervals. The British left less trace than they did in neighbouring Mauritius, which they ruled but never colonised. Today there are few original British families in Mauritius but the French settled thickly in Réunion and now trace their ancestors back over half a dozen generations who live alongside people of African, Indian and Creole origin. Newcomers here are called *zoreilles* ("the ears"), because of their imagined straining to hear what is being said about them in the local patois.

St Denis, the capital, is the largest French city outside metropolitan France. It enjoys the boast "the Paris of the Indian Ocean", but Paris would not be flattered, for it is dusty, clogged, and any buildings of interest are of sagging wood with peeling paint.

Driving in St Denis is, however, Parisian. My taxi had a pair of baby's booties dangling from the mirror. "To tell me," said the driver, "to take care, because of my baby girl."

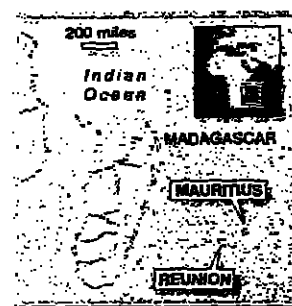
Touching, but it did not prevent him roaring in the wrong direction down a one-way street to buy some cigarettes, reversing out and colliding with another car. The altercation was also pure Paris.

On some corners of the town there are little pagodas overlooking enclosed gardens, used as watchposts by anxious mothers spying on their daughters dallying with young men among the flowers.

Samantha Peyett, a student, remembers her mother relating how she used to be spied on from one of these cryies. "We call them, in Creole, *get-a-lil*, which means "I can see you."

There are half a million people in Réunion, a *Département Français d'outre-mer*, and the French Government supports them massively. Vanilla is the main crop and only 40,000 tourists visit the island each year. No island is going to get fat on vanilla and a few hundred visitors, many of them backpackers, a week.

The earliest settlers were pirates, mutineers and other baddies, banished from Madagascar and living in the caves along the northwestern coast, where the huge seas of the



Indian Ocean run unchecked against the shore.

Life in Réunion has never been uninteresting. The castaways settled in to enjoy their confinement and set up a colony which later attracted many of the rogues and tearaways of the Indian Ocean. Across the busy dual-carriageway from the settlers' caves is a cemetery, bright with flowers and tombs as big as cottages. Stanzas of romantic poetry decorate its boundary walls. You leave by a gate with a courteous sign: *Merci de votre visite*.

The grave of Oliver le Vasseur, a privateer known as La Buse (the Buzzard), had fresh flowers on it, although he had been there two centuries. They lolled against the inscription and the small cannon which stands guard alongside. One of the many cemetery attendants told me that the flowers were placed there by people hoping to find the old pirate's treasure.

There remains a sniff of voodoo in Réunion, and on the grave of a mass murderer in another part of the island are flowers, cigarettes, food and rum — gifts donated in the hope that serious bad luck will befall the donor's enemies.

The student, Samantha, pointed out another grave in the cemetery. "This," she said, "is a man who was very polite, and foolish." He was, too. A victim of his own generosity, his epitaph reads: "Eraste Feillet fought a duel with another adventurer in 1830. His rival's pistol failed to fire, so the Frenchman gallantly offered his and called for a spare. Before it could arrive, his adversary shot him dead. He was English."

The island's northwest surfing beaches are the only white sands on the island; much of Réunion's coastline is as black as an old tooth, the result of spillings from the ever-grumbling volcano, the Piton de la Fournaise. Lumps of lava litter the foreshore and lie around houses.

One eruption sent a red-hot river streaming seawards which, in its course, obligingly divided and rolled each side of the church.

Further along the coastal road is an odd wayside statue of the Virgin with an umbrella protecting her from the rain — and any flying cinders from the volcano.

If the littoral, with its unending road, its lava rocks and beaches and the assaults of the Indian Ocean, is not the best aspect of Réunion, the alpine interior makes amends. It is cool, calm and lovely in the hills. There are beautiful natural amphitheatres. The route



A wayside statue of the Virgin with a protective umbrella

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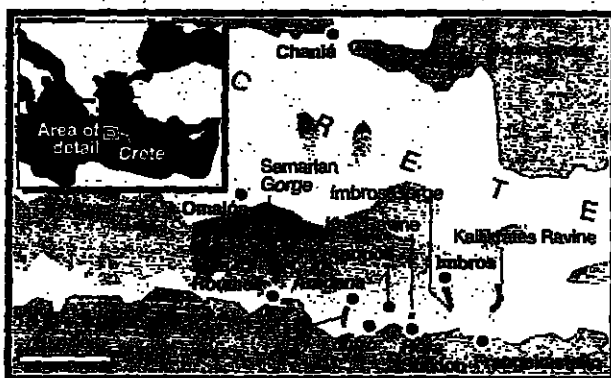
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CRETE: Beauty can be too tame a word to describe the epic quality of the White Mountain ravines

Gorging on the sublime



A traditional evening pastime in Hora Sfakion is to have a beer by the harbour and watch the foot of the gorge. Points were awarded for sightings of flip-flops, espadrilles and — the jackpot — high-heel sandals. The winner bought another round.

It is not such a good game these days. The growth of trainer-shoe culture has meant that fewer holidaymakers hobble to the waiting tour buses after their six-hour trek down Crete's Samarian Gorge. But some still look tired. Even though it is downhill, the walk involves an 18km hike from Omalo down to the ferries, which connect the mouth of the gorge at Aya Roumeli to the roadhead at Hora Sfakion. And many walkers were up at dawn for the four-hour coach transfer from the tourist resorts on the north coast.

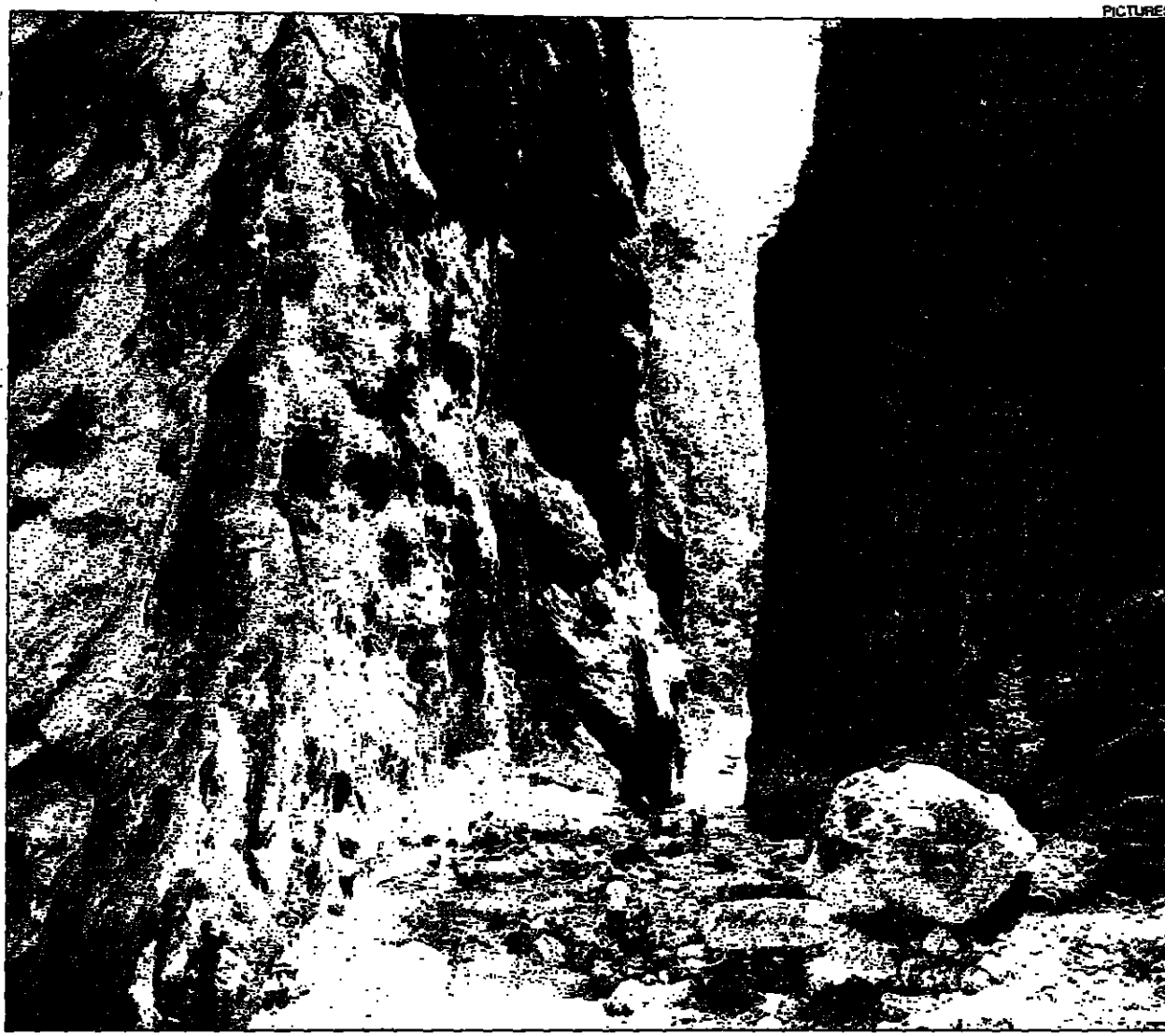
Under normal circumstances, the spectacular mountain scenery of the Samaria National Park would put a spring in anyone's step. But the Samaria experience is now big business for tour operators, who can package it at many times the cost of its constituent parts.

Last summer, an average of 2,000 people a day walked through the gorge; in August the figure was almost twice that number. Gorges being by their nature narrow, hiking through Europe's longest example is nowadays more akin to negotiating the London Underground rush hour than "surviving the mountain challenge", as claimed on the certificates and T-shirts you can buy in Aya Roumeli.

Local ecologists are concerned about the effects of tourism on such a mass scale. Paths are being eroded, while the rare Cretan ibex and golden eagles have abandoned the protection of the national park for the high mountains, where they are shot on sight by shepherds.

"The problem is that Greek national parks are not really protected," says Julie Vlahavas of the Pan-hellenic Centre for Ecological Research. "The situation in Samaria is worrying. We have suggested an educational programme to create more ecological awareness among guides and villagers, but conserving the environment is not a priority for the Government. They have ignored our proposals."

The irony is that Samaria is



The Samarian Gorge: at the height of the season, about 2,000 people daily walk through Europe's longest ravine

only one of five great gorges which cut through the White Mountains down to the sea. Here there is ample scope for independent walkers to leave the crowds behind and quietly enjoy the exhilarating sensation of walking through some of the most dramatic scenery in Europe.

The impenetrable mountains rising behind the gorges have preserved Sfakia's autonomy through waves of invasions. Neither the Romans, Venetians, Turks nor Nazis ever really controlled this part of southern Crete, largely due to the ability of the Sfakiots to melt into the rugged terrain and execute brief but bloody ambushes.

The provincial capital of Hora Sfakion is the best base for exploring the surrounding ravines. During the Venetian occupation at the height of its powers, the town supported a population of 3,000 and a sizeable merchant fleet. Nowadays it is a small scruffy port with a traffic problem caused by the coaches which collect the weary Samaria trippers but leave no much-needed revenue.

However, for all but a few hours each day, Hora Sfakion relapses into that state of torpor which city visitors find infinitely relaxing in southern Crete. Long hours can be passed under the shade of the tamarisk tree at the Hotel Stavris, the social centre of the village.

The closest gorge is a kilometre to the west, and for part of the way you follow the old Venetian road to Anápoli. Expertly designed to alleviate the steep contours of the hillside, the ancient stone have been worn smooth by centuries of donkey and human traffic.

After just 15 minutes' walk up the Kavi ravine, the unearthly stillness suggests that you are already deep in the mountains. It narrows into a

canyon where butterflies gather in pools of sunlight; the air is thick with the sound of bees working on pockets of herbs in the cliff face.

What you are following is a dried-up river bed created by melted snow and winter rains. Walking on the rocks is not especially difficult, but boots with good ankle support are better than trainers. After an hour, great boulders block the way; by this time most people are happy to retrace their steps with the promise of a swim on the shingle beach below.

The top of the Imbros gorge can be easily reached on the morning bus to Chania. At 800m, Imbros is one of the highest villages in Crete and is regularly blocked by snow in the winter. This gorge is 5km of delightful downhill walking, and is cool and shady even in the heat of summer. Walking through rock arches and past pillars and caves, you come upon innumerable spots for a picnic. At the other end you can either walk an extra 4km along the road to Hora (which is hot and exposed in summer) or buy a cold drink and wait for the afternoon bus.

A few miles further west is the remote Kalikrates ravine, which emerges from the mountains near the Venetian fortress of Frangokastello. To reach the head of the gorge you need to arrange a lift from Imbros.

But it was the Aradena gorge which provided the real mountain challenge. Having

taken an early-morning taxi up to Anápoli, we prepared for the walk. Greek-style with strong coffee and cigarettes in a café in the main square, overlooked by a statue of Ioannis Daskaloyiannis, who led a revolt against the Turks in 1770 and perished horribly in Heraklion.

First stop was the village of Aradena — recently deserted following one of the vendettas which still punctuate village life in Sfakia. Picking our way carefully along an old stone-flagged path down the side of a sheer cliff, we entered the gorge.

This ravine had an epic, almost Tolkien-esque feel to it. Stunted pine trees clung to the sides; we felt a growing sense of anticipation coupled with a vague dread, as if something could be waiting around the next massive boulder.

After half an hour, walking turned to scrambling as we negotiated our way over rocks as big as houses which had crashed down from the cliff face. Then we realised why the Aradena gorge is mysteriously absent from most walkers' guides.

It was a sheer drop of perhaps ten metres. A climbing rope and a chain vanished off the edge into nothingness. Claude and Hermine — two keen walkers from Switzerland — stood on the brink and cursed in their soft German. It looked like it was the end of the road.

Fortunately, the fourth member of the party was able to summon up boyhood rock-

climbing skills and volunteered to go over the edge and take a look. He discovered a loop in the rope which could be used as a stirrup to get past the overhang, and then a ledge which was big enough for four.

The second stage involved tying the rucksacks to the rope and lowering them down. Then it was the turn of the reluctant climbers. In vain David encouraged us to brace our legs straight and walk down the cliff in an orderly manner; Hermine and I re-

verted instantly to school gym technique and scrambled down its sides like nervous monkeys.

Now we were in the most spectacular part of the gorge. Above the banks of oleander the cliffs soared to 1,000ft; griffon vultures rode the thermals, lazily scanning for goats which had missed their footing.

Beauty is too tame a word to describe the epic quality of the scenery. Kant's portrayal of the sublime, where the wild places provide a direct experience of the noumenon as distinct from the purely phenomenal attributes of the beautiful, suddenly made perfect sense in Aradena.

After four hours we emerged at the sea on Marble Beach, a tiny limestone cove packed with sunbathers who had arrived by boat from Loutró. Colonies of naked Germans basked on the flat rocks; the local goats were doing a good line in relieving sunbathers of their picnic leftovers.

We sat in the shade in silence, drinking the last of our precious water. Back in the real world of holiday islands we were already nostalgic for the wild places.

Getting there

Waymark Holidays (01753 516477), Explore (01252 319448) and Sherpa Expeditions (0181-577 2717) offer guided walking tours of western Crete.

For independent travellers, there are several charter flights a week from Gatwick and Manchester to Chania from April to October at around £150; double rooms at Hotel Stavris (0030 825 91220) from £15 per night.

Sunvil Holidays (0181-508 4499) can organise fly-drive itineraries. A good walking guide is *Landscapes of Western Crete* (£8.99, Sunflower Press).

TRAVEL TIPS

British Airways Saturday Santa Special flights from Manchester start on December 2. The 45-minute flight on a Boeing 737 sporting red nose and antlers costs £59 per passenger and includes pre-take-off magic show, presents from Santa, festive snacks, badges and "I've flown with Santa" certificate (0161-832 7972).

Made to Measure Holidays (01243 533333) has recently launched a *Romantic Escapes* brochure, which includes short breaks to Portofino, Sardinia and the Etruscan coast near Rome, starting from £377 for two days; and long weekends in Prague, Budapest, Paris or Florence, starting from £189. Prices include scheduled flights from Gatwick or Heathrow.

Citalia (0181-686 5533) has an opera break programme to Milan or Verona for the 1995/96 season. Starting from £339 for two nights B&B at the three-star City Hotel in Milan, and £439 for two nights B&B at the three-star Giulietta e Romeo hotel in Verona, the package includes return flights and booked but unpaid-for tickets. These will cost an extra £116 at La Scala and from £22 at Verona.

Cox & Kings' brochure (0171-873 5000) includes four-day breaks to St Petersburg featuring a visit to the Hermitage museum, from £778 per person staying at the Hotel Marco Polo Nevsky. Or spend Christmas in this Russian city from December 24 to 28, from £584 per person at the Grand Hotel Europe.

Hendra Holidays Espana (01637 375778) has golfing holidays to Los Arqueros near Marbella. Prices until February 1995 start at £320 per person for seven nights, including apartment accommodation, flights, golf charges and car hire.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

YAGER

(c) An obsolete kind of rifle, also a yager rifle. "Nine Pipes came to get a nippie to put on his yager rifle."

ZIPPO

(b) The proprietary name of a make of cigarette lighter. "He extracted one [cigarette] and lit it with an old, tarnished Zippo purchased a quarter of a century ago."

SHAGROON

(a) An early settler in Canterbury, New Zealand, from anywhere except Britain, especially one from Australia. Perhaps from the Irish *seachdrn* wandering. "In

Canterbury, immigrants from Victoria, locally called shagroons, set up sheep stations on the plains and were contemptuous of the agricultural enterprises of the pilgrims as the Canterbury Association's settlers were called."

TROG

(c) A speleologist, a person without claustrophobia who enjoys exploring caves, and burrowing in narrow places underground. Yulk, an abbreviation of troglodyte. These are the trogs, as they call themselves, members of the Sydney Speleological Society, the Sydney University Speleological Society, etc. . .

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Vermeer

A stunning exhibition of this great Dutch painter will be held in The Hague from 1 March to 2 June 1996.

For details of our city breaks to The Hague and Amsterdam together with further information on the exhibition, write or phone.

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GAMES

25

by Raymond Keene

THIS IS the centenary year of the Hastings tournament, still the premier event of the British chess season. Hastings 1895 was the strongest chess tournament ever held up to that time. It witnessed one of the final efflorescences of the Evans Gambit, before it was shut away in the closet by elite players for 100 years.

White: Tichogorin
Black: Steinitz
Hastings 1895
Evans Gambit

1-44 2-44 3-44 4-44

In a game shortly before the New York world championship, Kasparov sensationally revived the Evans Gambit to score a quick knockout. I had hoped that the championship would produce more examples of this exciting opening. Sadly, it was not to be. Kasparov relied exclusively on the Ruy Lopez (3 Bb5) and the Scotch (3 d4) when the games opened 1.e4 e5.

4-0-0 5-0-0 6-0-0 7-0-0 8-0-0 9-0-0 10-0-0 11-0-0 12-0-0 13-0-0 14-0-0 15-0-0 16-0-0 17-0-0 18-0-0 19-0-0 20-0-0 21-0-0 22-0-0 23-0-0 24-0-0 25-0-0 26-0-0 27-0-0 28-0-0 29-0-0 30-0-0 31-0-0 32-0-0 33-0-0 34-0-0 35-0-0 36-0-0 37-0-0 38-0-0 39-0-0 40-0-0

White invests two pawns in the interests of trapping Black's king in the centre.

10-0-0 11-0-0 12-0-0 13-0-0 14-0-0 15-0-0 16-0-0 17-0-0 18-0-0 19-0-0 20-0-0 21-0-0 22-0-0 23-0-0 24-0-0 25-0-0 26-0-0 27-0-0 28-0-0 29-0-0 30-0-0 31-0-0 32-0-0 33-0-0 34-0-0 35-0-0 36-0-0 37-0-0 38-0-0 39-0-0 40-0-0

If instead 11 Bxb6 fxe6 12 Qb3 Qd5 is an adequate response.

13-0-0 14-0-0 15-0-0 16-0-0 17-0-0 18-0-0 19-0-0 20-0-0 21-0-0 22-0-0 23-0-0 24-0-0 25-0-0 26-0-0 27-0-0 28-0-0 29-0-0 30-0-0 31-0-0 32-0-0 33-0-0 34-0-0 35-0-0 36-0-0 37-0-0 38-0-0 39-0-0 40-0-0

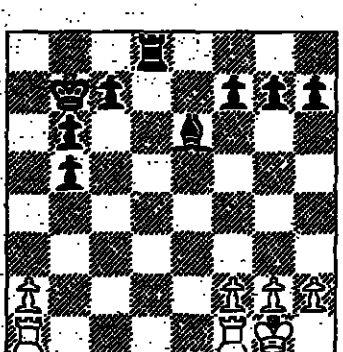
In the subsequent tournament at St Petersburg Steinitz improved Black's play with 12... Bb7 against Tichogorin and after 13 dxe5 a6 14 e6f6 a5 15 f6g7 Rg8 Black had the better game.

13-0-0 14-0-0 15-0-0 16-0-0 17-0-0 18-0-0 19-0-0 20-0-0 21-0-0 22-0-0 23-0-0 24-0-0 25-0-0 26-0-0 27-0-0 28-0-0 29-0-0 30-0-0 31-0-0 32-0-0 33-0-0 34-0-0 35-0-0 36-0-0 37-0-0 38-0-0 39-0-0 40-0-0

Last week's solution: 1 Rf5

At this point White could have justified his play with 15 Nxe5 Bxc5 16 Nc3 with a murderous attack since White threatens both Nxd5 and Qa6+. By playing instead for immediate material gain, Tichogorin throws away his advantage.

15 Qa6+ Kb8 16 Nxe5 Nc7 17 Nc3 Nxd5 18 Qa6 Qd6 19 Qxb5 cxb5 20 Nc4 Qb6 21 Qxb5 Kd7 22 Nxb5 Rxb5 23 Nc3 Kd7 24 Nxb5 Rxb5



White has initiated a long forcing sequence to win the exchange, but at the end of it he has a virtually lost position. Black enjoys a massive queenside pawn majority, bound to produce two connected passed pawns, and there are no weak points in his camp.

25-0-0 26-0-0 27-0-0 28-0-0 29-0-0 30-0-0 31-0-0 32-0-0 33-0-0 34-0-0 35-0-0 36-0-0 37-0-0 38-0-0 39-0-0 40-0-0

Later on, this weakening of the e3 square proves fatal, but without it White cannot get his king into the game.

40-0-0 41-0-0 42-0-0 43-0-0 44-0-0 45-0-0 46-0-0 47-0-0 48-0-0 49-0-0 50-0-0

White resigns.



Last week's winners: G. Lee, Newcastle; R. Demore, Bury St Edmunds; Suffolk; J. English, Balham, London.

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption 80, Weekend Games Page, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final.

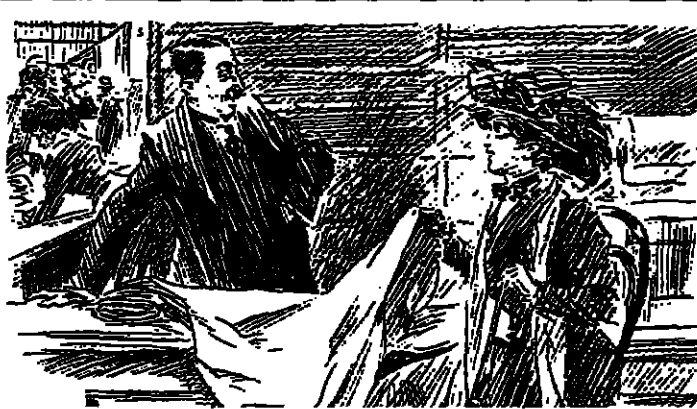
The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 1.



"Quite lifelike, isn't he? We should get a good price for him"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Miss K. Humphreys of Morecambe, Lancashire

PUNCHLINE



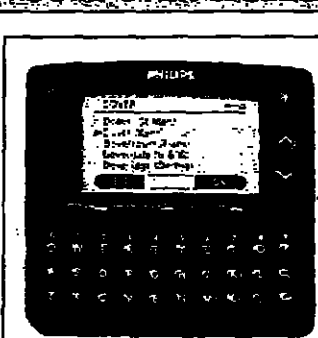
Fair Customer: "IS THIS COLOUR FAST AND REALLY GENUINE?"
Baffled Shop Assistant: "AS GENUINE AS THE RIDES ON YOUR CHEEKS MADAM!"
Fair Customer: "H'N-ER-SHOW ME SOMETHING ELSE!"



"Quite lifelike, isn't he? We should get a good price for him"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Miss K. Humphreys of Morecambe, Lancashire

COMPUTER GAMES



Find your way with Routefinder

Games, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You can also fax entries on 0171-729 6791. The closing date for the competition is midnight on November 7 and the judges will not enter into correspondence.

If you do not know where the Nile is, then Nile - Passage to Egypt provides a detailed answer. This CD-ROM comes from Astrion, using footage from the Discovery Channel, and it is an interesting diversion along Africa's mightiest river. You make the entire 4,000-mile journey in a felucca, a traditional Nile sailing vessel, which is a

greater feat than you could do in the real thing.

Starting at the leviathan Lake Victoria, bordered by Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, the exploratory journey follows the river as it snakes towards the Mediterranean. There are plenty of detours, from visits to a camel market in Cairo and splashing elephants in Ethiopia, to a handful of games. You can follow the journey straight or jump in at any point via the reference section's extensive index. By capturing pictures of the unfolding footage you can make and save a photographic journal of your journey; you can also make screen wallpaper from these pictures.

Nile - Passage to Egypt is available for Windows and Apple Mac. The title runs much faster if loaded on the hard disk, but it can run directly from the floppy disk if space is at a premium. As it transpires, Brian Cant of Play Away fame was wrong about the whereabouts of the Nile. Asked where it was, he replied: "On the back of the door - to hang your dressing-gown on."

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE world championships finished in Peking a week ago. After eleven days' play the USA won the Bermuda Bowl (the open event), beating Canada in the final. Germany beat the USA in the final of the women's event, the Venice Cup. The next competition is in 1997.

At international championships there is always a Daily Bulletin. The one in Peking was co-edited by Henry Francis of the USA, and the well-known British player and writer, Brian Senior. Over the next few weeks I shall be covering hands described in the bulletin.

This hand is from the match between Netherlands (East-West) and Argentina.

Dealer East. East-West Vul. IMP's

4-0-0 5-0-0 6-0-0 7-0-0 8-0-0 9-0-0 10-0-0 11-0-0 12-0-0 13-0-0 14-0-0 15-0-0 16-0-0 17-0-0 18-0-0 19-0-0 20-0-0 21-0-0 22-0-0 23-0-0 24-0-0 25-0-0 26-0-0 27-0-0 28-0-0 29-0-0 30-0-0 31-0-0 32-0-0 33-0-0 34-0-0 35-0-0 36-0-0 37-0-0 38-0-0 39-0-0 40-0-0

Contract: Five Diamonds Doubled, by South. Lead: jack of hearts

(1) A 'Michaels cue-bid', in this sequence showing a two-suiter in spades and a minor. (2) Asking South to bid his minor suit.

Leutkens for the Netherlands led the jack of hearts, which held the trick. He then switched to a trump, and the declarer mistakenly continued by drawing three rounds, on which Leutkens threw two hearts. This left the position shown below. The lead is in dummy.

4-0-0 5-0-0 6-0-0 7-0-0 8-0-0 9-0-0 10-0-0 11-0-0 12-0-0 13-0-0 14-0-0 15-0-0 16-0-0 17-0-0 18-0-0 19-0-0 20-0-0 21-0-0 22-0-0 23-0-0 24-0-0 25-0-0 26-0-0 27-0-0 28-0-0 29-0-0 30-0-0 31-0-0 32-0-0 33-0-0 34-0-0 35-0-0 36-0-0 37-0-0 38-0-0 39-0-0 40-0-0

It seems that the declarer can set up the clubs and get out for one off, losing only a heart and two clubs. But when he led a club to the queen, Leutkens played low. Now declarer could no longer get the clubs going, and all he made was five diamond tricks in hand, the ace of spades and a spade ruff, and the queen of clubs, to go three down.

What the declarer should have done was win the first diamond in hand and immediately set about the clubs. Now the best defence can do is take three tricks.

The team that won the American trials didn't progress beyond the

round-robin phase of the Bermuda Bowl. They had their moments though.

Dealer West. E/W Vul. IMP's

4-0-0 5-0-0 6-0-0 7-0-0 8-0-0 9-0-0 10-0-0 11-0-0 12-0-0 13-0-0 14-0-0 15-0-0 16-0-0 17-0-0 18-0-0 19-0-0 20-0-0 21-0-0 22-0-0 23-0-0 24-0-0 25-0-0 26-0-0 27-0-0 28-0-0 29-0-0 30-0-0 31-0-0 32-0-0 33-0-0 34-0-0 35-0-0 36-0-0 37-0-0 38-0-0 39-0-0 40-0-0

Contract: Five Clubs by South. Lead: king of hearts

It certainly doesn't look right to bid on the South hand - you have good defence against spades, and too many losers to expect to make Five Clubs. But after the lead of king of hearts the hand is cold. All the declarer has to do is win the ace of hearts, draw two trumps and lead up to the jack of hearts.

The bulletin described what actually happened as a ping-pong match. Pity Eddie Kantar wasn't playing. After Cayne had taken the heart with the ace, he played a spade from dummy. This was presumably because he felt he had to set up a ruff - drawing two trumps first might enable the defence to draw a third round when they won the spade. Perron played low and Chelma won. He could now have led the queen and another heart, and when Perron ruffs with the jack, Chelma's queen of clubs becomes the setting trick. But Chelma returned the ten of diamonds to the jack, queen and ace. Again Cayne could make his contract by drawing trumps, but he led a heart.

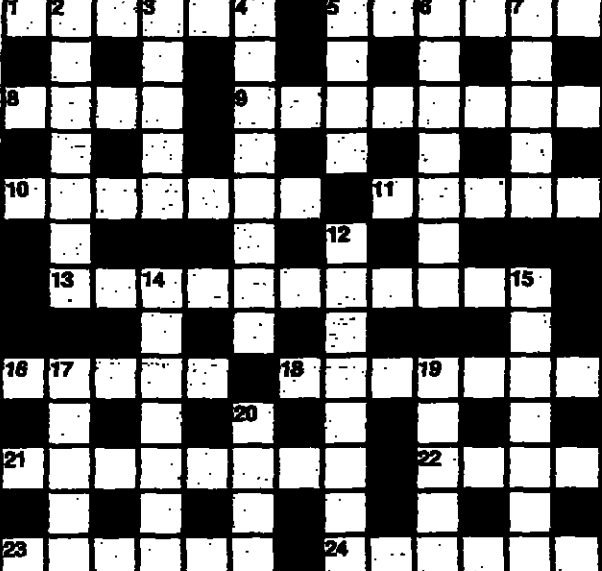
This gave Chelma another chance to get the trump promotion, but he led another diamond. Now Cayne cashed his top trumps and made Five Clubs. Before reading on, do you have any views on Chelma's play?

Using the miracles of modern science the press-room manager Anna Gudge was able to e-mail copies of the bulletin round the world. The Internet experts e-mailed back in time for the next issue of the bulletin, exonerating Chelma. The point they spotted was that from West's point of view, playing a third round of hearts could give away the trump position - what if declarer's clubs were headed by A K J? Then if East ruffs with a low club, West's queen will be exposed.

The correct defence is for East to go in with a high spade when one was led from dummy. He can see the possibility of a trump promotion; he returns a heart, and West must trust him and play a third round. All rather easier sitting in front of your computer screen than at the bridge table.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3329: Alphanumeric II by Piccadilly



No. 612

- ACROSS
- 1 Suspended (4,2); an inhibition (4-2)
 - 5 French finance minister, 1789; an illusory cube (6)
 - 8 Strong taste, small (4)
 - 9 Unimpressed (seven) (3-5)
 - 10 Firearm, bore, distinction (7)
 - 11 Drinking session, romp (5)
 - 13 Inquisition, grilling (5,6)
 - 16 Dump down (flames) (5)
 - 21 Friendly; a drink (7)
 - 22 Tower over (8)
 - 23 Principal, (water) conduit (4)
 - 24 Stop short; lawfully seize (6)
 - 2 Oppressive ruler (4)
 - 3 Unyielding (7)
 - 6 Benjamin - (pre-war) ten- or (5)
 - 4 Stick out (8)
 - 7 Lack, want (4)
 - 9 Helicopter; clever (7)
 - 12 Happen as consequence (5)
 - 17 Fragrant; suggestive (10)
 - 14 Fragrant; great thoughts, feelings (10)
 - 15 Privatisation (7)
 - 17 Small, pervasive quality (5)
 - 19 Object, be reluctant (5)
 - 20 Hypocritical, slang talk (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 611
ACROSS: 1 Access 5 Visa 9 Rat race 10 Aghast
11 Pedestal 12 Oliver 15 Ghetto 18 American 20 Credit
22 Express 23 Card 24 Titan
DOWN: 2 Cortes 3 Entrepot 4 Smart 6 Inch 7 Aussie
8 Zealot 13 Indignant 14 Goatee 16 Heroic 17 Nausea
19 Expat 21 Dour

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CLUES are normal, but their solutions (whose lengths are indicated in brackets) use only the 12 different letters of the title. Each of these letters is uniquely equivalent to one of the whole numbers from 0 to 11 inclusive, in an order to be deduced by the solver. Each solution therefore has a numerical value, which is obtained by multiplying the letter-values together (for solutions of two words, add the values of the words; hyphens should be treated as minus signs).

One row and one column of the diagram corresponds to one of the number bases from 2 to 12 inclusive, in an order to be deduced, and the numerical values of the solutions are to be entered in the diagram in the appropriate number base. Use X = ten, Y = eleven where necessary in base 11 and 12 - eg. 1690 (base 10) would appear as Y8X (base 12) or 1ZK7 (base 11).

Palindromic solutions, and only palindromic solutions, lead to palindromic diagram entries, and no diagram entry has zero as its first digit.

- ACROSS
- 1 René's an eccentric to catch in a trap (7)
 - 4 Clia's picture showing leg on high? (S. hyphenated)
 - 7 Rare goose noticed emerging near Evesham initially (4)
 - 9 You could spend this in Japanese newspaper's (3)
 - 10 Negligent concerning woman's title (6)
 - 12 Bridge supporter's confusion with queen ... (4)
 - 13 ... South's one who rants, "A counterfeiter" (4)
 - 15 Organic matter has strong smell, engulfing Uruguay (5)
 - 17 Evenly served before (3)
 - 19 Man perhaps is liberal European (4)
 - 21 A shovel to strip off the rind (4)
 - 22 Maria Callas largely transformed musical direction (10, two words)
 - 24 Armie's manuscript arrangement is almost a hit (8, two words)
 - 25 Two articles in equal quantities (3)
 - 27 Surround in the midfield (5, two words)
 - 28 Take in Indian nursemaid's melody (4)
 - 30 Thorns of tree on board ... (6)
 - 32 ... pierce body of ship in port (4)
 - 35 Promiscuously have intercourse - hide first (8, hyphenated)
 - 36 Sides of Aconcagua producing lava (2)
 - 37 Quiet, unwell? Take this! (4)
 - 39 Word-play is of central importance to Capet, Chaucer, Sygne (3)
 - 42 She'll go after bent nails, making coiled protection for molluscs (10, hyphenated)
 - 43 Expressing contempt for Area Health Authority (3)
 - 44 List of options in computer destroyed: P.C. tiro dismissed! (4)
 - 45 The French saints are interior ... (4)
 - 46 ... assurance partly found in Koran (4)
 - 47 Unaccompanied girl after a top Prince (9, two words)
 - 48 Sleeping in when I pushed back (6)

- DOWN
- 1 Uncle beginning to undress big bird ... (4)
 - 2 ... fascinating woman, separating partners with anger (8)
 - 3 Man's optical device (4)

K E R M I S P I E M A N
I L I A D U R L I A N O
C I S T A P E L I A I C
K A N T R E D A A P S E
U D O F O R E G O P E N
P A R A D I S E L O S T
A U T H E N T I C I T Y
S R I N T I N E N E O
T U N G T E N G S T O W
O M G R E N A D E S L L
O A K U M D T O W R I E
P L E X U S E S N E C Y

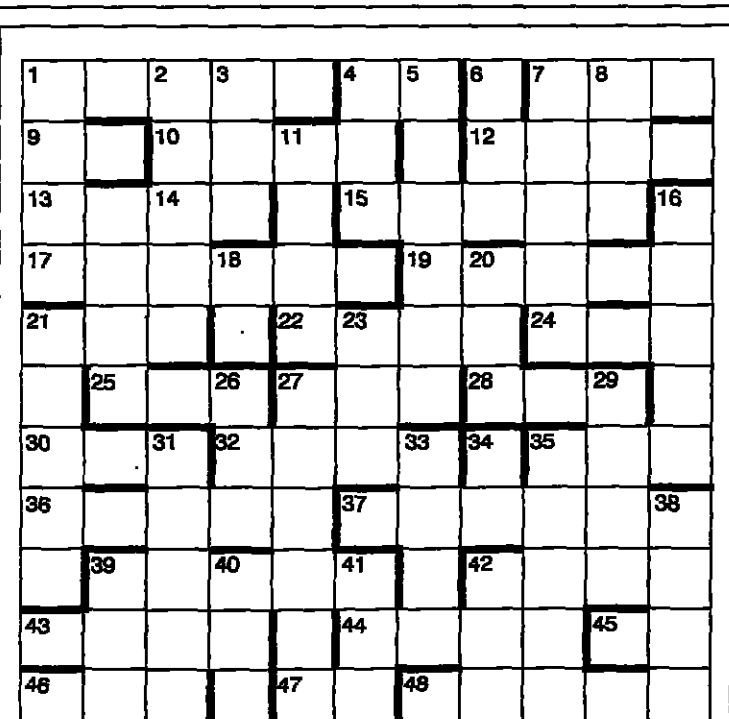
Solution to No. 3326: X by Ossie

Because of the fourfold symmetry, the typical cell, and so the typical word, has seven reflections: therefore the groups of other than eight words contain some (a) or all (E and F) words that reflect onto themselves across the non-diagonal axes, and their words must be of even length. It follows that no word can be 7, 9 or 11 letters long, and that no 3- or 5-letter words can straddle either of the non-diagonal axes.

ACROSS: 6 comp anag. & lit (ref. 5 & Simple Simon) 13* (anag reversed) & lit 15 v cant 18 AP-S-E - AP - points 10 (Judo 23 Au-then-din) City 25 of Sir 27 tr (estime) 30 Chun: L. Durrell 32 S to W. of E to N 33 sedan-erg. & lit 39 (dem)esc-c-y. & lit

DOWN: 4 s v lds 6: divine - make out 9 (Rom) anise 16 den in rot. & lit 17 hidden. & lit 24 owl in y-y. & lit 26 rum. 1-a", & lit 29 even letters 34 of emu 35 (dis)er

The winner is G.S. Morgan of Guyborough, Cleveland. The runners-up are G. Snowden-Davies of Cardiff and Murray Glover of Walton on Thames.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3329

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الطريق الى



Mr Brittas takes off Britain's wheel nuts
Page 3



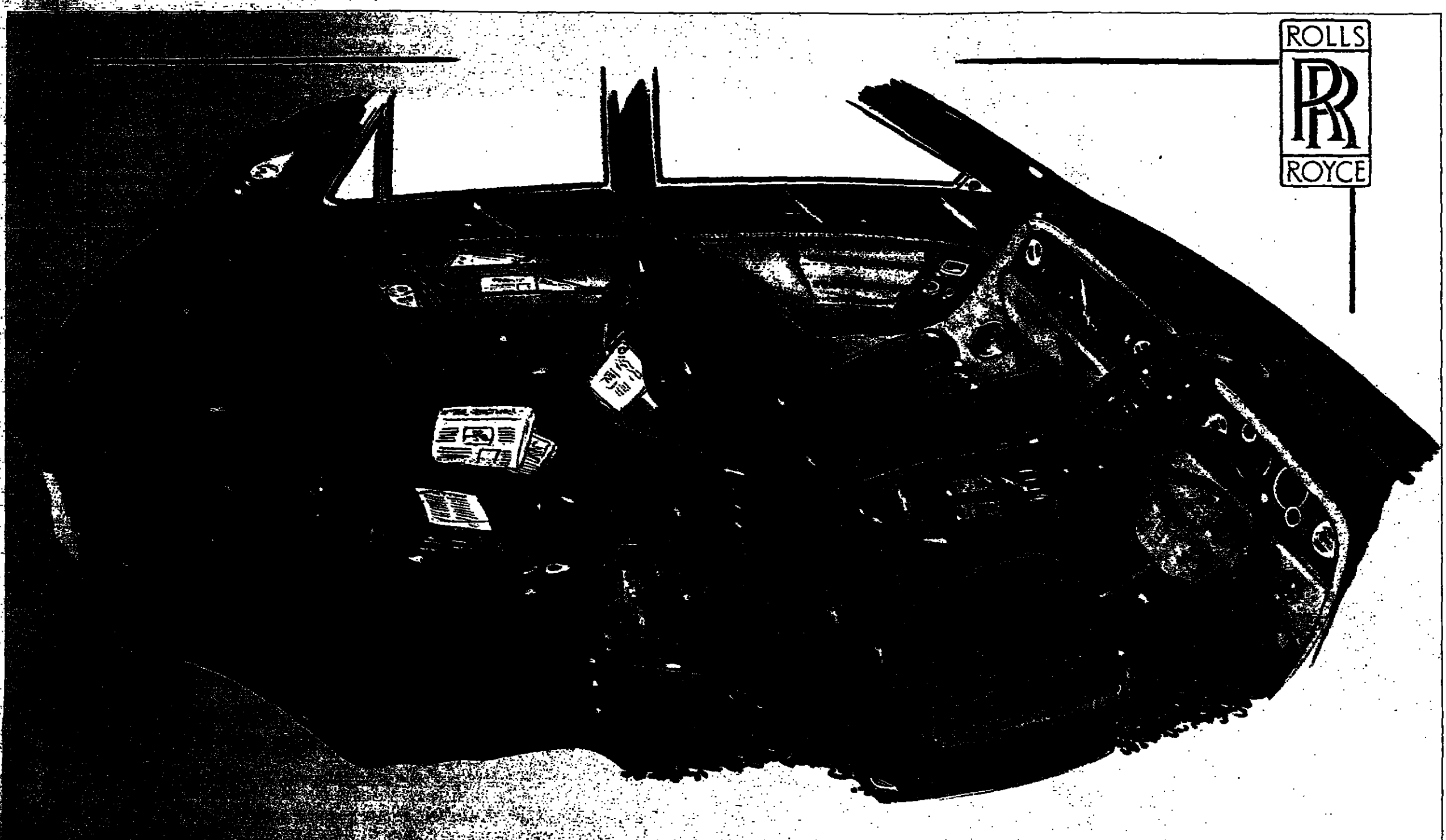
The M25 madness that drove Parkinson to discs
Page 10



SATURDAY OCTOBER 28 1995

Kevin Eason reports from the London Motor Show on a classic remodelled specifically for our readers

The Thunderer: a Rolls for our Times



The Middle Eastern princess was quite certain what colour her new Rolls-Royce should be: purple inside and out, but exactly the same purple as the top of her two exquisite spent bottles.

To be sure, she gave the Rolls' salesman one top - and kept the other to check it was a perfect match when it arrived. The car was delivered and she held the bottle top against the paintwork - it was exactly the same.

Rolls-Royce customers can be a demanding bunch, as Darren Day knows after a week on the company's stand at the London Motor Show.

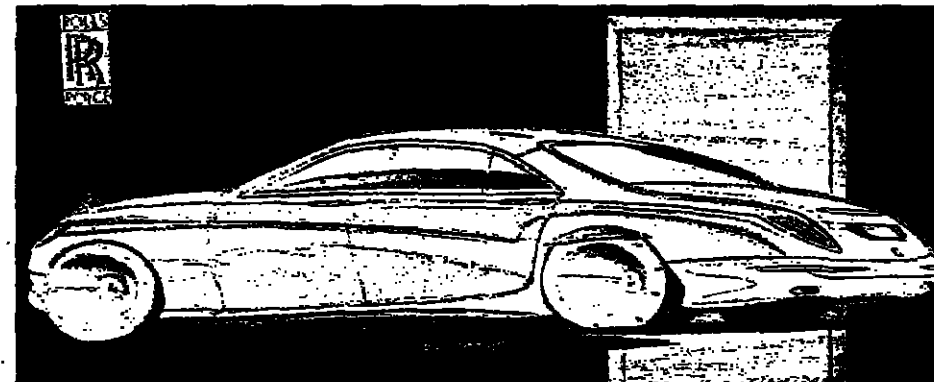
The young stylist took his pencils and pens to Earls Court to draw bespoke interiors for customers who want the traditional Rolls' wood and leather, but precisely to their taste. In five days, 16 people paid their £10,000 deposit on a car and then sat with Day as he translated their colour schemes and fabrics into a personal design.

"People are not just buying a car with a Rolls-Royce and they often want to make a statement about themselves by choosing the colours and interior materials," he says.

- This car doubles for business and leisure so electronics have to be versatile. The lap-top computer, which folds into the front seat back, can also take computer games to entertain the children on long journeys, while the seats are designed to fold into compact child chairs.
- During the week, the walnut-lined centre panel has a fax machine and two mobile phones fitted above it. At the weekend, with the children safely strapped in, the leather phone panel folds down, covering the fax to reveal a walnut door to a two-bottle fridge with drinks cans and glasses.
- Plenty of pocket room in rear doors for books and papers is supplemented by slots which will take drinks cans or bottles. Folding picnic trays on seat backs help keep debris out of hard-wearing lambeswool carpets.

So we asked Day to design a Rolls-Royce for *The Times*, a limousine of the future to which all *CAR 95* readers could aspire, given a win on the National Lottery. His brief was to produce a four-door that would double as business transport during the week and take the family to the park on Saturday. A man or woman - aged from 25 to mature - had to be comfortable at the wheel and not feel the car was too ostentatious for the austerity of the 1990s. The concept (above) is a dramatically sleek compact saloon with a futuristically stylish interior for our demanding readers.

Not as demanding, though, as Rolls' customers who could easily spend £50,000 if they chose the rarest materials and the most complex fittings for their bespoke cars. One man arrived this week wanting a Bentley Azure but in a completely individual version; his budget was £200,000 on top of the £215,000 cost of the car. Another Azure customer was worried that it would be unable to cope with his army of children and holiday luggage that included skis, so Day designed a boot lid rack and trunk with satin chrome fittings and leather straps. Sometimes the challenge is



Sleek, stylish and chic the *Times* Rolls combines consummate class with practicality

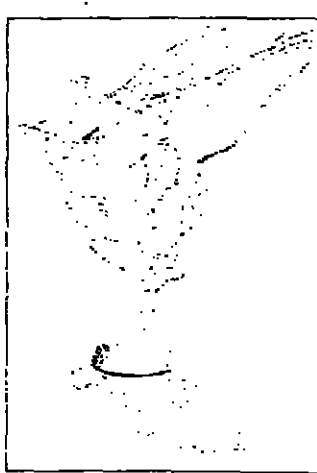


Better by design: Darren Day styles the concept car

- ### FRONT SEAT CONFIGURATION
- The *CAR 95* Rolls-Royce retains traditional burr walnut and leather in St James's red, offset by magnolia, but in a radically different form, the dashboard having a "floating console" with overlaid, satin chrome dials and slimline switchgear. Day has also kept the hallmark "bullseye" air vents.
 - Extra space is created by losing the gear stick, which becomes a two-button auto shift on the steering wheel, similar to the press-button system used on Formula One cars. Twin car phones go into the gap, while a screen for a route navigation system is to the left of the dashboard dials.
 - The curves introduced in the dash extend to the front doors, which follow the sweeping roof line, but allow extra legroom at each side, while each door gets strengthened leather pockets for maps and papers.

Learned lady

A WOMAN reading *The Times*... but not just any woman. This is the famous Spirit of Ecstasy which has flown atop the bonnets of Rolls-Royce cars since 1910. Even the Spirit needs to be entertained and informed, according to Tony Garrett from the graphics department of *The Times*, who came up with this slightly tongue-in-cheek version of the mascot as the figurehead for our special Rolls-Royce, designed by Darren Day.



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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON
A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks between the Lea Valley Viaduct and Fore Street, which cause regular delays.
A406 North Circular Road, East Finchley. Down to one lane in parts between the A1 and the A1000 for major roadworks.
A400 West End. Major resurfacing work in Tottenham Court Road between Oxford Street and Goodge Street.
● SOUTH EAST
M25 Surrey. Two sets of roadworks and lane closures, between J6 and J8 (Godstone-Reigate) and J9 to J10 (Leatherhead-A3).
M4 Berkshire. Major roadworks between junctions 6 and 8/9.
M11 Essex. Major repair work, with a contraflow between junctions 6 and 7 (M25-Harlow).
M3 Hampshire. From 6pm today until 6am tomorrow, motorway is closed in both directions between junctions 4 and 4A (Camberley-Fleet Services) for bridge work. Same closure last week over-ran and caused lengthy tailbacks.
● SOUTH WEST
M5 Gloucestershire. Contraflow between J11 and J12 (Cheltenham-Gloucester).
A35 Dorset. Major roadworks between Morecombale and Charnmouth, with traffic reduced to a single lane.
● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA
M6 West Midlands. Contraflow between J5 and 6 (A452-A38M) with three narrow lanes each way and speed restrictions.
A1 Lincolnshire. Major roadworks and contraflow between Stamford and Grantham.
A17 Lincolnshire. Leadenham Bypass closed for roadworks from 7am to 7pm every Sunday until 19 November.
A47 Tarrington St John, Norfolk. Down to one lane eastbound for construction work.
M45 Northamptonshire. Whole of motorway closed eastbound until 8am tomorrow.
● NORTH
M1 M7, Leeds, West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow, two lanes each way during peak-times.
M62 West Yorkshire. Lane closures for roadworks on the slip roads at the Lofthouse interchange (with the M1) mean regular delays.
A64 North Yorkshire. Major roadworks and a contraflow at Tadcaster.
A1 North Yorkshire. Major roadworks with contraflow at Watford.
M6 Cheshire. Major widening work near the Thelwall viaduct, between J20 and 21a (Lymm-Croft).
M6 Greater Manchester Roadworks between junctions 25 and 26.
A6 Cheshire. Major resurfacing on Buxton Road at Disley, with temporary traffic lights.
A58 Bolton. Crompton Way is reduced to one lane in each direction because of resurfacing work.
● WALES
M4 J22-J24, Gwent, widening work continues in connection with the second Severn crossing.
M4 Mid Glamorgan Lane closures in both directions for major roadworks between junctions 36 and 37.
A449 and A40 Gwent. Major works between Newport and Monmouth, with much of the route down to a single lane.
A40 Gwent Major roadworks on Hereford Road, Abergavenny expected to cause delays.
A466 West Glamorgan. Major roadworks and contraflow at Glynneath interchange.
A548 Clwyd. Major roadworks and contraflow between Oakenthorpe and Kelsterton.
● SCOTLAND
A77 Glasgow. Major roadworks with contraflow on Bellshill bypass between Orbiston and Bellshill roundabouts until tomorrow evening.
A77 Glasgow. Major roadworks at junction of Eglinton Street, Pollokshaws Road and Cavendish Street cause regular delays.
A749 Glasgow. Dalmeadow Bridge closed southbound for major roadworks.
M90 Central Region. Major roadworks with contraflow at junction 5.
M90 Fife. Major roadworks with contraflow between junctions 1 and 2.
● NORTHERN IRELAND
County Tyrone. Roadworks on Omagh bypass at junction with Derry Road and Drumquin Road.

We are all environmentalists now — but, despite our smug little stickers, our car exhausts are still killing people

Motoring really can be murder

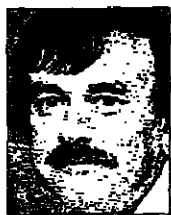
When the computer system at a West Country garage got its wires crossed, it started delivering 4-star petrol to people who thought they were pumping unleaded and vice versa. There was some damage to cars with catalytic converters, but most people did not notice any difference.

Although I am not very good at chemistry, I do know that unleaded fuel contains no lead and 4-star contains not very much lead. That is part of the reason why the famed "greening of Margaret Thatcher", under which there was an incentive to run on unleaded fuel through reduced duty, was a sham: oil companies are years ahead of governments in reducing lead content.

The bigger part of the sham was that if you take the lead out of petrol, you must put something else in to control the combustion of the fuel. So, in place of lead, the fuel contains benzene, which can cause cancer.

But unlike lead, benzene does not raise the octane level of the fuel, therefore we accelerate more — thus

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

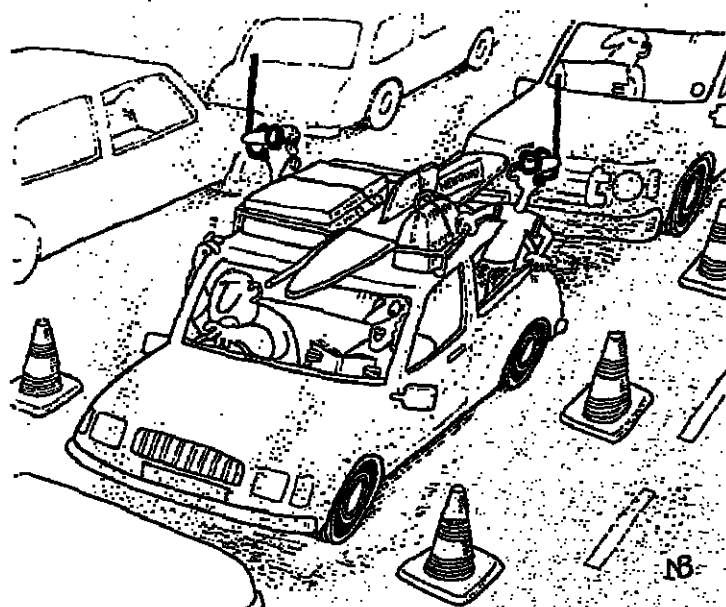


Peter Barnard

burning more petrol — to get the performance lead would give us.

The truth about unleaded fuel is that there is little point to it without a catalytic converter, which really does help the environment, so a government that was genuinely green should think about how to deal with all those cars without "cats".

This need is given particular point in a week when a World Health Organisation report has claimed that there is no such thing as a safe



part of the M4 at junction 8/9 was followed by another army of the red monsters blocking the area near junction 6, so that one lot of chaos simply merged into the next.

This is like the old problem with the gas board digging up the road one day followed by the water board digging it up the next. Sensible co-operation has largely rid us of that disease, but now it seems that one lot of roadworks is oblivious to the next.

The problem could be solved in a trice, but there is no political capital in taking such a step, so no one bothers. How much more dramatic to encourage the use of unleaded fuel! Dramatic, but sadly useless.

A MAN in Toronto who thought he might have had too much to drink the night before, drove his car to the police station one morning, hit something while parking and eventually staggered into the station to ask for a breath test. The police, having watched his parking manoeuvre, tested him positive and arrested him for "driving while impaired" (don't you just love those Canadian euphemisms?).

The incident has caused outrage on the ground that the driver was locked up "for doing the right thing". So the right thing to do when you're drunk is to get in a car and drive to a police station seeking confirmation. Anyone who thinks that must be, well, impaired.

Green for danger warning

Motorists with cars designed for unleaded fuel are finding it causes damage, says Tony Dawe

The dangers of using unleaded and newly-introduced fuels, even in some cars designed to take them, are being highlighted by mechanics, motoring organisations and even the carmakers themselves.

They report a growing number of faults, especially engine valves burning out, and warn motorists to double-check the fuel they are using and to buy petrol with additives whenever possible. Their warnings are timely as super-market chains and petrol companies are vying with rivals to offer cheaper and new environmentally-friendly fuels.

Problems have been identified in the new range of Zetec engines in many Ford saloons and hatchbacks — which are designed to take unleaded petrol — and in Rovers with A-series engines, fitted to models such as the Metro, Maestro and Montego, which have suffered valve failures after using the new LRG (Lead Replacement Gasoline) fuel.

Among victims is Eric Ginn, of north London, who suffered a double blow when the valves failed in his Rover 820Si, which takes unleaded petrol, because he uses his car in his job with a company providing a chauffeur-driven service for businesses.

"Both the head gasket and the gearbox had gone in the first three months after I bought the car, which had been only ten months old with 9,000 miles on the clock," he says. "Then the engine started pinking. I thought it was the timing, but the noise got worse. It was embarrassing, picking up people who were paying top money to be taken about, only to find themselves in a rattle."

Chris Patience, AA's head of technical support, says that lead in petrol contributes to the overall octane of the fuel and lubricates the valves. "If you take it out," he says, "it's like moving from 4-star to 3-star petrol and causes erratic running and pinking. It also affects the valves, especially soft cast-iron valve seats fitted in many engines."

"Without the lead lubricant, the valve gradually hammers its way down through the seat on every stroke, making the conical surface recess into the cylinder head. If you have an engine with soft valve seats, it must run on fuel containing sufficient lead to protect them. If you run on unleaded, you will get hot spots and the valves will burn out."

Mr Ginn's Rover was supposed to have hardened valve seats, but that did not prevent his problems. "When I called Rover's customer services department, all the man did was read out an advert for Shell advanced petrol and told me to use it," he says.

Enfield trading standards department took up with his



Eric Ginn and his Rover 820Si: "Both the head gasket and the gearbox had gone in the first three months after I bought it at ten months old"

NEW FUEL: AN AA GUIDE

The AA offers this guide to some of the new types of fuel available at petrol stations and supermarkets:

■ **LRG (Lead Replacement Gasoline)**

Being promoted by ASDA, this is basically a super unleaded fuel, topped up with aromatics and a valve seat recession additive to achieve the octane equivalent of leaded 4-star. In some places, it has been badged as 4-star, but it could be damaging to use it in engines designed to take leaded petrol.

■ **Tesco Low Benzene Unleaded**

This fuel has been specially created to be environmentally friendly with low levels of benzene (a cancer-causing chemical in high doses) and reduced sulphur and aromatics contents and can be used by all cars that normally run on unleaded petrol.

■ **Shell Low Lead 4-star**

As the name suggests, the normal lead content has been halved in this petrol but it still provides adequate protection for those engines with soft valve seats like the Rover A-series. It can be used by all cars that normally run on 4-star, but not those with catalytic converters.

The AA adds the following advice for all motorists

- If you can, always use ordinary premium unleaded petrol
- If you need to use 4-star, then do so or use low-lead 4-star
- If you use diesel in a town or city, consider using low sulphur or city diesel
- Always use petrol with detergent additives. These fuels are becoming increasingly common, even at the cut-price supermarkets, which advertise them clearly. If you cannot see any indications that the petrol contains additives, then assume it does not.

World speed bid set for late summer

RICHARD NOBLE'S Thrust SSC team will be in head-to-head competition next year with a powerful American bid to be first to put a car through the sound barrier.

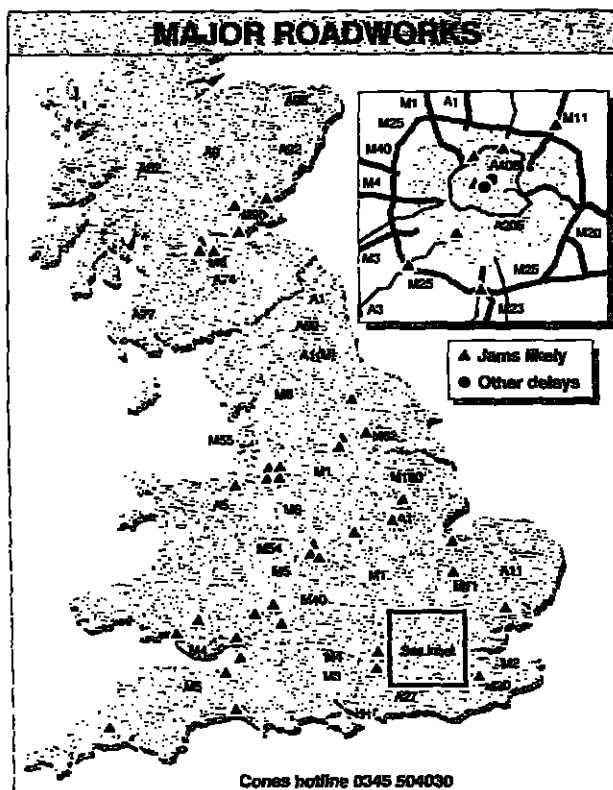
Noble told more than 350 people at a forum organized by CAR 95 this week that the race towards the historic landmark could be resolved by next summer on the flat sands of Arizona's Black Rock Desert.

Thrust SSC, the seven-ton monster being seen by more than 20,000 people a day at the London Motor Show, could be ready for testing in the spring with the record attempt in late summer. However, Craig Breedlove is also racing to have his Spirit of America, sponsored by General Motors, ready in time.

For Noble, it is as much a dash for cash as a quest to break the technical barriers to guarantee that the 54-foot long Thrust does not decide to take off as its pointed nose pushes towards Mach 1. The quest for sponsorship was a daily grind to guarantee the unique project went ahead, he said.

Interest in the project is now enormous. An estimated two billion people around the world have seen films of Thrust SSC while 300,000 subscribers to the Internet in 60 countries follow its progress. Another 24,000 join the electronic information service each week and there are 2,300 members of the project's Mach 1 Club.

Thrust is at the show at London's Earls Court this weekend.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Range over

SO FAREWELL, then, classic Range Rover. That definitive boxy shape is to be made no more, even though it refused to die with the introduction of the streamlined version. Rover is ending assembly of the Range Rover Classic with a special edition of 25 cars, one for each year of production. With 3.9-litre V8 and just about every specification in the catalogue, the Range Rover Classic 25th Anniversary Final Edition costs £40,000.

Contest in stereo

ENTRIES for our competition to win a JVC stereo worth £299 is open until next Saturday. The ten KS-RT808R units we have to give away are the latest in automotive sounds with a voice identifier, RDS automatic channel tuning and automatic equalisation to give a choice of acoustics from concert hall to pop studio. JVC is showing the systems at the London Motor Show this weekend, along with its extensive range of equipment. Just answer these questions: Who is the presenter of BBC Radio Three's new morning show? What does RDS stand for? Who created Radio Four's Desert Island Discs? Answers to Car 95 Radio Quiz, 1, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

Rally for victims

DOZENS of cars will take part in a rally for the Stroke Association next Saturday — with the promise of an exciting trip with a famous driver in a famous car at the winning post. The start and finish is at Castle Combe race circuit, near Chippenham, Wiltshire, with entrants stopping at BP petrol stations en route to collect points. John Surtees, Paddy Hopkirk and Tiff Needell will be waiting with a clutch of cars (Jaguar D-Type, Ford GT40 and more) to give trips around the circuit, but anyone can join the fun to raise funds. Further details on 01392-211267 or fax: 01392-413576.

Slowing down

THERE is just no hope: latest department of Transport statistics show central London traffic roaring along at an average 12.9mph in the evening rush hour, slower than in 1981 when cars, cabs and buses positively charged about at 14.1mph and not much better than the days of horse-drawn transport. Mornings are little better, with traffic managing 13.5mph compared with 14.2mph 14 years ago. Time to go back to a pony and trap.

Barchetta arrives

FIAT will bring its gorgeous Barchetta sports car into Britain for £13,994. A "comfort pack" of leather upholstery, gear knob and steering wheel, central locking, electric radio aerial and door mirrors, passenger airbag and front fog lights comes as a £1,399 extra. Power steering, engine immobiliser and electric windows are standard — but the car is left-hand drive only.

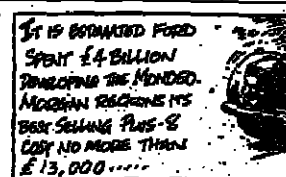
AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans



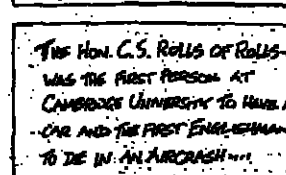
FLASHING YOUR LIGHTS AT ON-DRIVING MOTORISTS IS WHEN TEAM OF A POLICE SPEED TRAP MIGHT CAUSE A MAXIMUM FINES OF ONE MONTH IN JAIL AND A £1,000 FINE.



IN 1952 SOUTH LONDON GARAGE OWNER SYDNEY ALLARD BECAME THE ONLY MAN TO WIN THE MONDIALE RALLY IN A CAR OF HIS OWN DESIGN.



IT IS ESTIMATED FORD SPENT £4 BILLION DEVELOPING THE MONDIALE. MODERN TECHNIQUES ITS BEST SELLING PLUS-2 COY NO MORE THAN £15,000.



THE HON. C.S. ROLLS OF ROLLS-ROYCE WAS THE FIRST PERSON AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY TO HAVE A CAR AND THE FIRST ENGINEERMAN TO DIE IN AN ACCIDENT.

Television's Chris Barrie talks to Kevin Eason about the off-the-wheel characters he plays in his new video

You don't have to be mad, but...

Chris Barrie is a model of normality as he leans against the long, pointed bonnet of his E-Type Jaguar. But the classic car buff and motorist he observes have grown into a gallery of the eccentric and plain beauty in his latest video.

The star of television's *The Brittas Empire* and *Red Dwarf* just had to draw on the experience of a lifetime's passion for cars to find the characters that make up the cast of the Surley Manor Automotive Gala, a gathering which bears as much relation to the London Motor Show as a Saturday soccer match at Crewe Alexandra would to the World Cup Final.

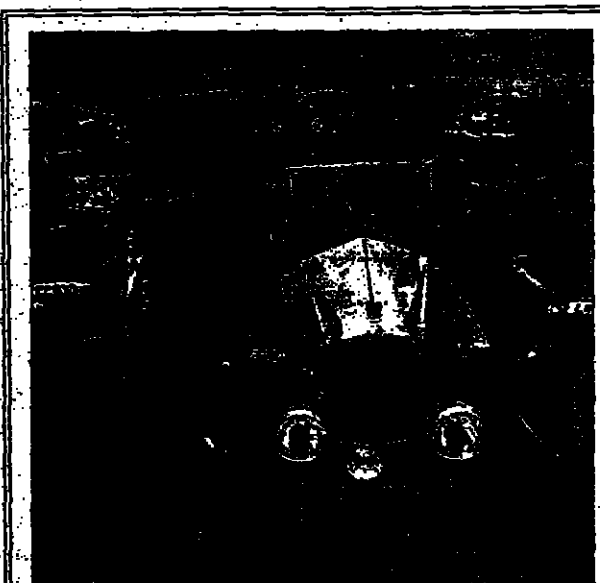
The cast for Chris Barrie's *Motoring Wheel Nuts* are a motley crew of enthusiasts, the same oddball characters that anybody who spends time around cars encounters at least once in a motoring lifetime.

Barrie says: "I always wanted to do something related to motoring because there is as much inspiration in the people as in the cars themselves."

Barrie plays all the principal characters, starting with the star of the show, Sir Marmaduke Lovemoney, who has little or no love for cars. Holding the Surley Manor Automotive Gala in the grounds of his crumbling and deeply mortgaged ancestral home is just a ruse to get as many ticket-paying customers through the door as possible.

Barrie has several classics tucked away. Sadly, he is reluctant to talk about them in an age when jealousy too often reigns over admiration for models seen as rich men's playthings.

"I don't like to say too much because people will think I'm showing off. It's not like that. I started driving an old Volkswagen Beetle and progressed to a Ford Fiesta. But I learnt basic mechanics on motorcycles. I've had Triumph Bonneville, a BSA 650... quite a line of bikes over the years."



SIR MARMADUKE, MAN IN CHARGE

The trouble with the working classes is that they interrupt Sir Marmaduke Lovemoney's drinking time. But they do bring with them lots of lovely money, smashing moolah to keep the drinks cabinet full and the ball from the grand oak doors of the crumbling manor house. Sir Marmaduke, one of the nation's less noble noblemen, hit on the idea of opening Surley Manor for an automotive gala when he realised that it meant he could take a £20 note off every driver coming through the gate. Even the drink doesn't affect the memory when you can take another £20 for the right to take a family snapshot to remember the day. Oh, and another £20 for a glass of champagne.

"I had a Scalextric when I was a boy, like everyone else. But there was nothing in the family that helped me form an attachment to the classic cars that I enjoy now," he says. "My father only ever had conventional cars and has a Citroën Xantia now. I have no real interest in motoring, but I do like cars which have history. I have no idea why, but they are the models that I look for."

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"I've had some bad reactions from people when I have been out in my cars, which I find sad. There are too many people who are motivated by envy when they could enjoy these lovely old cars."

Models featured in the video range from a splendid 1929 Rolls-Royce Phantom I, worth around £70,000, and a £150,000 1924 Vauxhall 30/98 to a Jaguar XJ220, all 200mph and £300,000 worth. There is a Millman Imp — which spends the hour-long video broken down, a condition probably not unfamiliar to former Imp owners — and a valuable 1934 London Taxi, while bringing up the rear is a battered VW Polo on loan from private owners who entered its value as £37.50.

Vic Beresford, the video's resident "know-all", would look down on such foreign rubbish as the Polo. He is a British Leyland man through and through, and erstwhile committee member of the Vanden Plas Owners' Club, who only left to form his breakaway organisation after a schism over the merits of roof racks.

His trite advice bounces off Bertie Trubshaw, the video's vulgar cad, but could drive Roger Shetterton to distraction. Roger turns up at Surley Manor apologetic after a day's road rage on his way to the gala. Cur up Roger's Ford Probe, and it is at your own peril... unless you happen to be over 6ft and a man, and then you might well have been right to move to the inside lane; everyone else is subjected to a stream of Roger's Liverpoolian abuse.

None of that bothers Spike, the hippie who takes his beloved Morris 1000 Traveller to the gala. Spike smokes herbal cigarettes and worries about peace and love, and caring and sharing with his little car, Nobby. Quite whether he grasped the concept of the modern garage workshop is a mystery though. He confesses: "I have a holistic mechanic. I took Nobby in so he could look at his clutch, but he wanted to treat the whole car. Wow!"

Motorists the world over will identify with Spike's story, having taken cars for a minor repair and ended up spending more than its value. Little did they know it was just holistic treatment.

Chris Barrie's *Motoring Wheel Nuts* (15) is released next week by BBC Video, price £12.99.



Chris Barrie: "I always wanted to do something related to motoring because there is as much inspiration in the people as in the cars themselves"



SPIKE, FROM HERE TO MORECAMBE

"O.K. yeah man. Like, a car isn't just a car. This is Nobby." Hippie Spike and his girlfriend, Chrissy, are at the show, not to see gleaming supercars but to get in tune with the universe. You know, like to be there and feel the groove. And in Nobby's cute little Morris 1000 Traveller, complete with environmentally friendly wooden frame and a boot big enough for Spike's guitar. Not that Spike wants to put little Nobby, whose daily diet is a lubrication of eucalyptus oil, through the rigours of the Surley Manor concours, because the Traveller is more of a friend, a home, a "vehicle to take you to the ends of the earth". Well, Morecambe at any rate, which is Spike and Nobby's next weekend destination.



BERTIE TRUBSHAW, ULTIMATE BOUNDER

What Bertie Trubshaw really needs is a car with a very, very, very long bonnet. Unfortunately, the message the cravat-clad Bertie wants to communicate to girls about his classic E-Type Jaguar has little to do with performance and a lot to do with ride and handling. Poor Bertie is one of life's lounge lizards, an ultimate bonder who cannot chart his way through a single sentence without a double meaning, especially when confronted with the fluttering eyelashes of Sir Marmaduke's pouting maid, whose charms are enough to convince Bertie to drink champagne, even at £20 a glass. Problem is that Bertie's bonnet might be long, but the exhaust pipe is positively droopy, so our cad's hopes of a quick pick-up lead only to a slow breakdown.

Where BMC 3298 — pronounced Mi-Ni-Coo-Pah — sell like hot pancake

David Long discovers that an icon of the Sixties is still swinging in Japan

Simon Empson sells more than 2,000 number plates a month... all exactly the same. Each one says BMC 3298 and is attached to a Mini that might be regarded as a classic in this country, a variant of a model in production for the past 36 years, but is the height of motoring fashion in Japan.

BMC was the original parent company of Austin and Morris, who made Minis. As for 3298, there is absolutely no particular significance. Add them together, though, and pronouncing BMC 3298 in Japanese sounds remarkably like Mi-Ni-Coo-Pah, a quirk which has the Japanese queuing in the showrooms.

Everybody loves a Mini, but Empson now happily knows that nobody loves them quite as much as the Japanese. A former Rolls-Royce salesman and classic Ferrari dealer until the collapse of the late 1980s, Empson could not fail to notice on a business trip to Japan the enthusiasm for Minis in every shape, size and type.

In the past 10 years, Japan has imported more than 80,000 Minis, mostly new cars supplied by Rover, but including 11,000 that are classics, not just sporty Coopers but also woodies — estate versions with wooden rear frames — vans and pick-ups. At the last count, Japan had more than 800 Mini dealers selling everything from hats and badges to

fully-built cars, which, shipped from Britain, were fetching up to £20,000.

Although not a Mini enthusiast, Empson knew a business opportunity when he saw one and moved in. That was in 1992 and three years on, his company, Broadspeed Engineering, has become one of the best-known Mini specialists, selling restored cars not just to Japan, but also Canada, Malaysia, Germany, Russia, Australia, even China.

Based in a ramshackle collection of barns and old chicken sheds on the Essex-Suffolk border, the Broadspeed name has proved crucial in making the overseas venture a success. Founded by Ralph Broad to build and race Minis, the team's now highly collectable Broadspeed GTs frequently beat the John Cooper Minis in the 1960s. By 1982, however, the company was in receivership and stayed there for more than ten years until Empson acquired the name... and the blessing of the founder. Business jumped by 60 per cent in one year.

Empson's first Mini was acquired from a local Ford dealer. "It was an old pick-up, which I ran for a short while before sticking an ad in *Exchange and Mart* at twice what I paid for it," he says. "The phone nearly melted the day it came out — I could have sold it 10 times over."

Even this was nothing com-



Majoring in Minis: Simon Empson and his Broadspeed Retros, City or Mayfair models rebuilt to give them that "back to the future" look

pared to what was happening in Japan. "I went there to sell a collection of racing cars, but it was impossible to ignore the mania for Minis." In Britain, people are enthusiastic about them, but in Japan it has become an obsession with some variants fetching up to 10

times what would be considered a sensible price in the UK. "They even have a saying," says Empson. "Mini sell like hot pancake."

Within three months, Empson had bought about 20 Minis and a local company, Classic Wheel Restoration,

"All we did was restore and sell Minis, no servicing, no MOTs. Business was good, but the name said nothing about Minis so I started looking for one which did. Eventually, after more than 80 telephone calls, I found Broadspeed." A great name in Mini circles, it

works wonders — and not just in Japan. "Germany, too, now has more than 100 Mini clubs and quality is very important." This is reflected in the price of many restorations: £25,000 is not considered excessive by some German enthusiasts.

"Obviously we are quite happy to deal at that level, but, of course, a lot of people do not want to pay that much for a car which, whatever you do to it, is still only a mass-produced Mini. You're talking about rebuilding a car to far higher standards than BMC could

even have contemplated. That makes them expensive."

Many of Broadspeed's customers want old Mini looks but without the cost of the real thing. "They don't want a genuine Mk1 Cooper S, just cars, sliding windows, all that stuff, and a few personal modifications. One American ordered an extra loud horn because drivers in the US just don't see tiny Minis."

Restoring a rare Mk1 Cooper S — the donor car that every fanatic really wants — could cost more than £10,000. That would be crazy money, so Empson hit on the idea of his own modern "Retro" model.

The Retro starts life as one of the thousands of low-mileage, rust-free Mini City or Mini Mayfair models that come up for sale. Broadspeed strips and resprays the shell, rebuilds the engine and re-trims the interior to look like the real old thing. Older-style lights, chrome trim including bumpers, grille, mirrors and Mini-like wheels complete the "back to the future" look.

Empson admits that the result, rebuilt to showroom standards for around £5,000, is not a real Cooper S, but for anybody who wants to enjoy the feel of Mini motoring, the Retro has revived the Mk1 look and style which made the car such a masterpiece when it was first revealed to the world in 1959.

Broadspeed Engineering, Stoke Farm, Rectory Hill, Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk. Telephone: 01336-263377.



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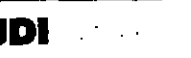
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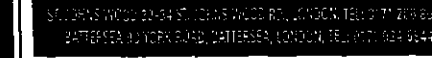


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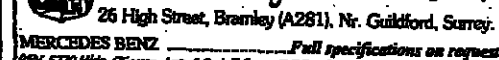


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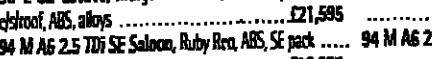


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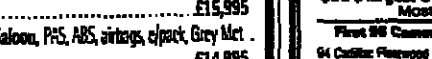


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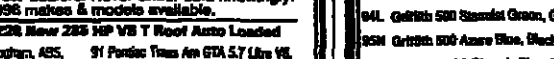


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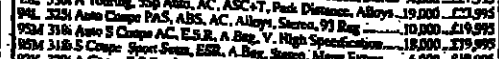


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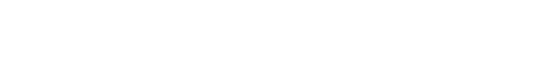
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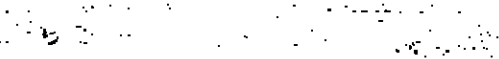
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Continuing his series on legends of British motoring, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu profiles W.O. Bentley

Engine genius who didn't like motor cars

The motor car seemed to me a disagreeable vehicle," W.O. Bentley observed in his autobiography, an unpromising statement from the man who gave his name to one of Britain's most charismatic cars.

Like Henry Royce and Laurence Pomeroy, Bentley began his working life with locomotives and one can understand that a man raised on Henry Ivatt's majestic, smooth and powerful Atlantics would have had little time for the vibrating, spluttering turn-of-the-century motor car.

Unlike Royce, Walter Owen Bentley was born (in 1888) in very comfortable circumstances in Avenue Road, St John's Wood. He was the youngest of six boys, and the household included three sisters and, again from his autobiography, "an appropriate complement of servants". He was educated at Clifton, where he excelled mainly at cricket, and then began a premium apprenticeship at the Great Northern Railway Company's Doncaster workshops, transferring to King's Cross for his last two years.

Apart from the 60-hour week, each day starting at six (to be even 30 seconds late was an unforgivable crime), life at Doncaster was not easy, for there was a great gulf between the premium apprentices, whose parents paid £75 for their sons, and the regular apprentices, mostly sons of men who had spent all their lives with the Great Northern, who were paid five shillings a week. Nevertheless, Bentley stuck it out, learnt a lot and made good friends.

He did not pursue a career in railways because he could see little future for himself in it. By 1910, he had come to accept the wages, but though his first involvement with road vehicles was through a Quadrant motorcycle with a surface carburettor and single-speed transmission, he obtained a job as general assistant with the National Motor Car Company in Hamersmith. One of his tasks was to catch out cabbies who were clocking their meters. The cabbies were an ingenious bunch, and as soon as Bentley stopped one loophole, they found another.

After two years at Hamersmith, W.O. joined his brother, H.M. Bentley, in an agency for the French DFP car. In W.O.'s words, the DFP was "a pleasant enough little motor car", but it was not until Bentley began to tune the engine that it became a serious performer. His main change

— and a pioneering one in car design — was to replace the iron pistons with an alloy consisting of 88 per cent aluminium and 12 per cent copper. Thus equipped, the DFPs took class records at Brooklands and covered a flying mile at 89.7mph (144km/h). Plans for DFP to fit these pistons at the factory were frustrated by the outbreak of the First World War.

Bentley's experience with aluminium pistons was invaluable during the war. He worked on aero engines, modifying the French-designed Clerget rotary, then built at the Gwynne and Humber factories as the BR1 and BR2 (Bentley Rotary). At the end of the war, W.O. returned to selling DFPs at Bentley & Bentley, but was anxious to see

and frequently changing design, who followed the Bentley Boys to Le Mans. It always seemed to fail to W.O. to patch up their quarrels and dry their tears. He was begged by three different drivers to meet "the most wonderful woman ... We knew each other pretty well by coffee at the end of the third meal".

In June 1931 fortune ran out for Bentley Motors Ltd. They had debts of more than £100,000. Barnato was unable to underwrite them any more, and the company went into receivership. There were negotiations with aero engine makers Napier, who had built a luxury car of their own up to 1924, but they were defeated by a sealed bid in court by a mysterious group called the British Central Equitable

"We never won a race at a mile an hour faster than we had to"

Trust Ltd. Bentley had no idea who this trust represented, and only learnt from a cocktail party conversation overheard by his wife. A stranger said that his company had recently taken over Bentley. Her hostess told her that his name was Arthur Sidgreaves, and on returning

home she told W.O., adding: "Who is Sidgreaves?" "He's the managing director of Rolls-Royce," Bentley replied. That he had to learn about the takeover in this way must have soured Bentley's feelings about his new employers from the start, and things did not get any better. Rolls-Royce planned a new car based on their 20/25, but most of his suggestions were rejected and when his contract came up for renewal in 1935 he left and moved to Lagonda, though he did say later about the new 3½-litre Bentley: "I would rather own this Bentley than any other produced under that name."

Lagonda was a very small outfit compared with Rolls-Royce, who, coincidentally, had considered buying it just at the time that Bentley joined them. In fact it was brought by Alan Good, a Lincoln's Inn lawyer, and Bentley was put in charge of revamping an ageing design. The engine was a 4½-litre pushrod six made by Meadows, which was used up to the outbreak of war in 1939, but Bentley raised power from 115 to 140bhp by an improved cross-flow inlet manifold and a lighter flywheel. For 1938 he gave the Lagonda independent front suspension and into this chassis, in addition to the six, went a 4½-litre V12 engine.



Charisma with wings: W.O. with the 1928 4½-litre Le Mans Bentley, top, and a 1939 Lagonda powered by the V12 engine. Illustration by Philip Castle

This was W.O.'s finest achievement — refined, quiet and with turbine-like smoothness — and it was his own work, whereas all the vintage Bentleys were derived from the Burgess-designed 3-litre V12-equipped sports cars finished third and fourth at Le Mans in 1939, and they could well have won in 1940 had not war intervened. As it was, the

V12 was used in a mini-hydroplane for the Royal Navy, which never went into production, and for the rest of the war Bentley was engaged on generally boring work with aircraft components and flame-throwers.

After the war Bentley designed a 2½-litre twin-over-head camshaft six for Lagonda, which so attracted

David Brown, who had just bought Aston Martin, that he bought Lagonda as well (for £52,500), so that he could use the engine in the DB2 sports saloon. Lagonda also used it in a heavier car of their own, made up to 1953, and Bentley designed a radial five-cylinder and flat six which were never made. He left Lagonda in the early 1950 and, after a spell in

consultancy work, which included a 3-litre twin-cam engine for Armstrong-Siddeley, he retired in 1959.

Always a very modest man, he was gratified by the interest shown in "his" Bentleys by organisations like the Bentley Drivers' Club, but could never quite understand the degree of enthusiasm. He would never make a speech in public, but

was persuaded to give some radio and television interviews. He lived quietly in Surrey until his death, at the age of 82, in August 1971.

Hundreds of mourners attended his funeral in Guildford Cathedral, supported by 68 of his cars. He would have been delighted by the higher profile that Bentley cars now have in the Rolls-Royce range.

From elephant hide to gold-inlaid walnut veneer in a century of luxury

This seat of kings... Kevin Eason looks back at 100 years of Daimler

It might have 100 years on the clock, but the car that started the British car industry is still as sprightly as the gorgeous limousine made to help celebrate its birthday. The Daimler company was formed on January 14, 1896 by a collection of businessmen more used to factories that made sewing machines and bicycles than the new-fangled motor car.

It was almost another year before the first model left the Coventry factory, but that upright vehicle, with a tiny, four-horsepower engine, solid tyres and a tiller instead of a steering wheel, launched what was to become one of the world's most powerful industries.

The 1897 Daimler Phaeton-Graffon will be at the centre of celebrations for the centenary of the British motor industry next year, where it will be joined by its direct, if somewhat more elegant, descendant Jaguar, which has held the Daimler title since 1960, is producing a 200th Centenary Daimlers to mark the anniversary of the badge, which has survived 100 years and is only outstripped by Benz in the motoring annals.

The fact that the name still exists at all — and belongs to Britain — is something of a curiosity in a world in which the attrition rate of famous

badges has been enormous over the past century.

The story of how Frederick Simms took Britain into the race to make cars using engine technology by Gottlieb Daimler, his German friend, is told in a new book by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu with David Burgess-Wise.

Simms formed the Daimler Motor Syndicate in 1893, originally wanting to install a carmaking plant in an old gas engine works in Cheltenham, the spa town which now seems an unlikely choice for a heavy engineering business. But he sold the Syndicate to Harry J. Lawson, an entrepreneur who knew how to make money and was far-sighted enough to figure out that the horseless carriage was the coming thing.

Lawson chose an old cotton mill in Coventry and put the engineering skills of the local workforce to good use. Remarkably, Lawson took almost nothing from Daimler's technology, which was for a rear-engined carriage already fast going out of fashion by the time the Coventry factory opened its doors. He kept only the name, and instead took inspiration from the French and the front-engined Panhard Levassor with rear-wheel drive through a gearbox.

One of the earliest Daimler customers was John Scott



Enthroned: Edward, Prince of Wales and John Scott Montagu in an 1899 Daimler

Montagu, Lord Montagu's father, who happily drove from Beaulieu to London and even persuaded the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, to abandon horse-drawn carriages for the modern motor car. From then on, the Daimler was synonymous with Royalty, great limousines used on state occasions because of their silent grace. More than 1,000 Daimlers were used at the coronation of George VI in

1937; no wonder Daimlers became known as the "Cars of Kings". The original Syndicate business had merged with BSA, the great arms to cycles conglomerate, in 1910 for financial strength. Dudley Docker, the chairman, was to keep an oddly long association with Daimler through his son, Bernard, who became Daimler chairman 40 years later, although his daughter-in-law, Norah, later Lady Docker,

was probably more infamous as the promoter of a number of "specials", with gold plating and interior trims made from the skins of exotic animals.

Daimler pushed the concept of the luxury car further than its competitors by designing a huge V12, known as the Double Six, a nomenclature which remains today in Jaguar's top-of-the-range, long-wheelbase limousines. During the Blitz, Daimler's factories were



Evolutionary change: a Centenary Daimler (£69,625) alongside its 1897 ancestor (£375)

among those in Coventry subjected to terrible bombing, yet they still provided vehicles, such as armoured cars, but the postwar years were ones of gentle and slow decline, the cars no longer a Royal favourite, the limousines no longer quite so elegant. In fact, the only postwar note in motoring history seems to have been the fact that the 1953 Daimler Conquest was so named because it was £1,066 (1066) before tax.

Sir William Lyons paid £3.5 million for Daimler to add to his fast-growing Jaguar company and was quick to appreciate the value of such a historic badge, although future limousines were to become little more than top-of-the-range Jaguars. The splendidly-named Majestic Major, a 4.5-litre V8 saloon, struggled on to 1968, although

the exotic Dart sports car, made to rebuild Daimler's fortunes in the United States, was already on a one-way ticket to oblivion in Sir William's rationalisation plans.

The tradition of the Daimler-Jag remains today, instead of the bone-shaking rattle and cockpit open to the elements of the original 1897 Daimler, owners of the 17-foot long Century limousine will step into a car with performance that Gottlieb Daimler would not have believed possible.

The Century offers two engines: the cheapest a four-litre, 245 brake horse power; the most expensive an enormous six-litre, the 12 cylinders arranged in the traditional V-formation, which develops 313 brake horse power, enough for 150mph — a potent contrast to

the 24mph the Daimler of 1897 could muster on a good day, downhill and with a fair wind. The interior is also a stark contrast, with the Century the motoring equivalent of an elegant drawing room; all-leather seats and trimmings, gold-inlaid walnut veneer dashboard and sumptuous deep-pile lambeswool carpets. The 1897 model could hardly compete with such luxury, although the seats were leather and the hood elephant hide.

There was one other sharp difference: the 1897 Daimler, although the luxury car of its day — well, almost the only car of its day — cost £375. The top-of-the-range Daimler Century on sale early next year will be slightly more — £69,625 more, in fact.

©Daimler Century, with a foreword by the Duke of Edinburgh, is published by Haynes at £19.99.

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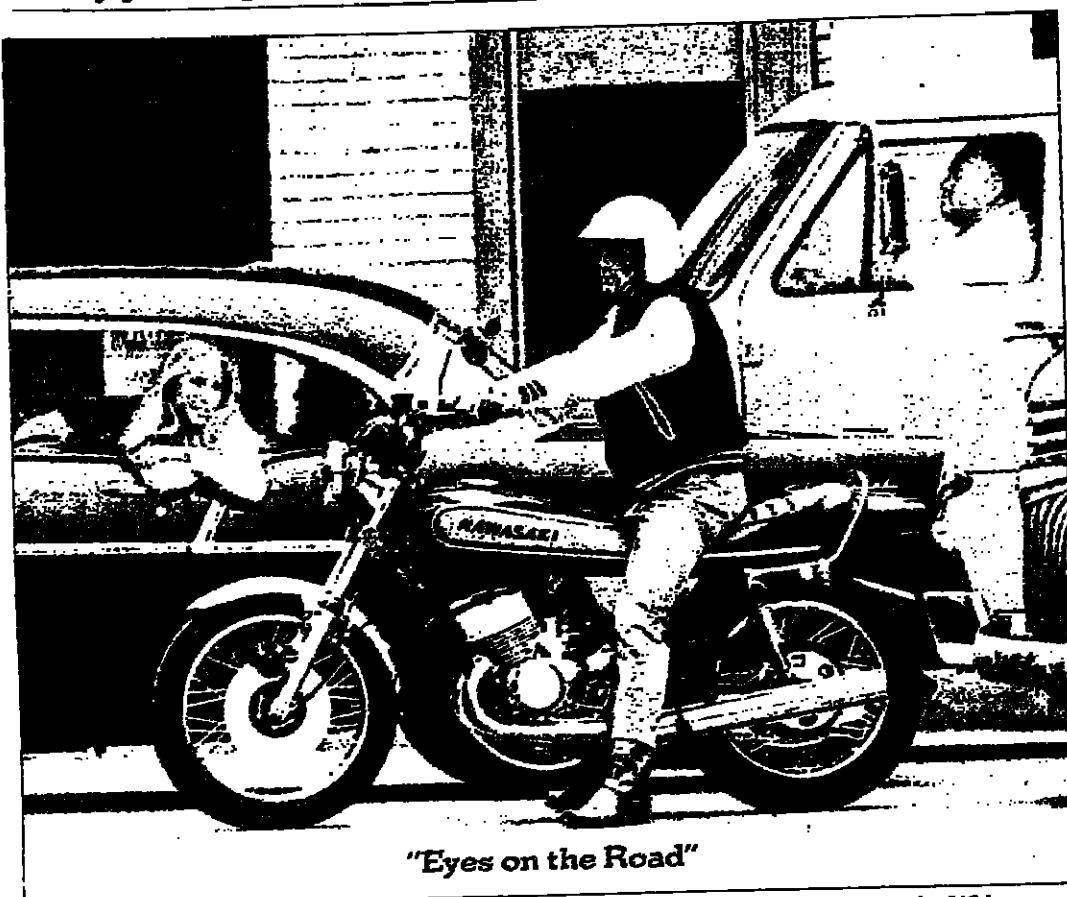
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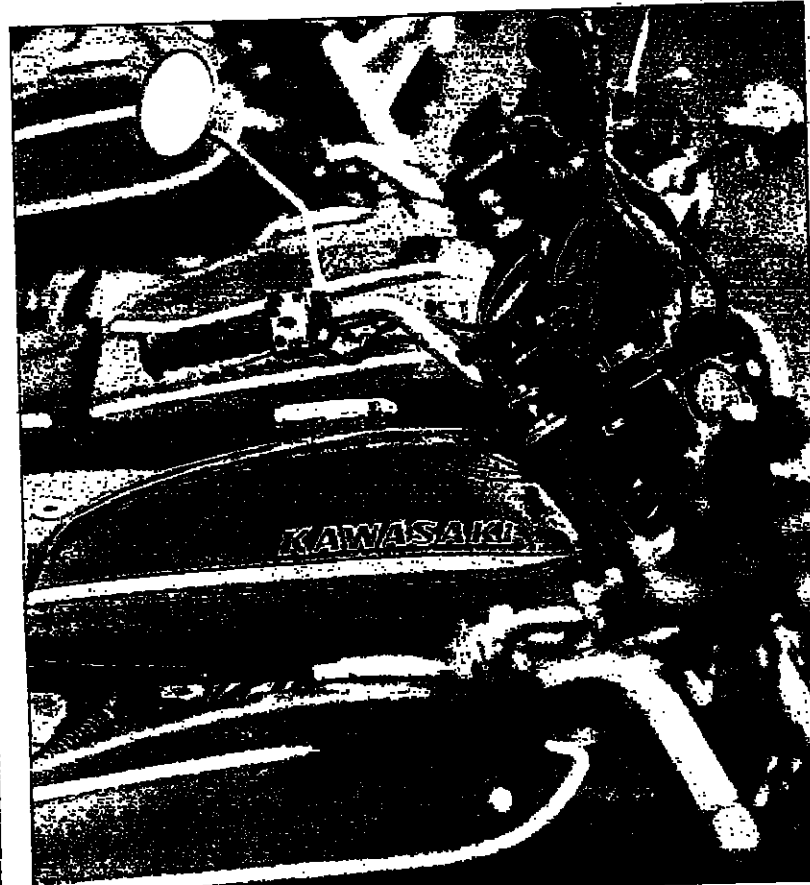
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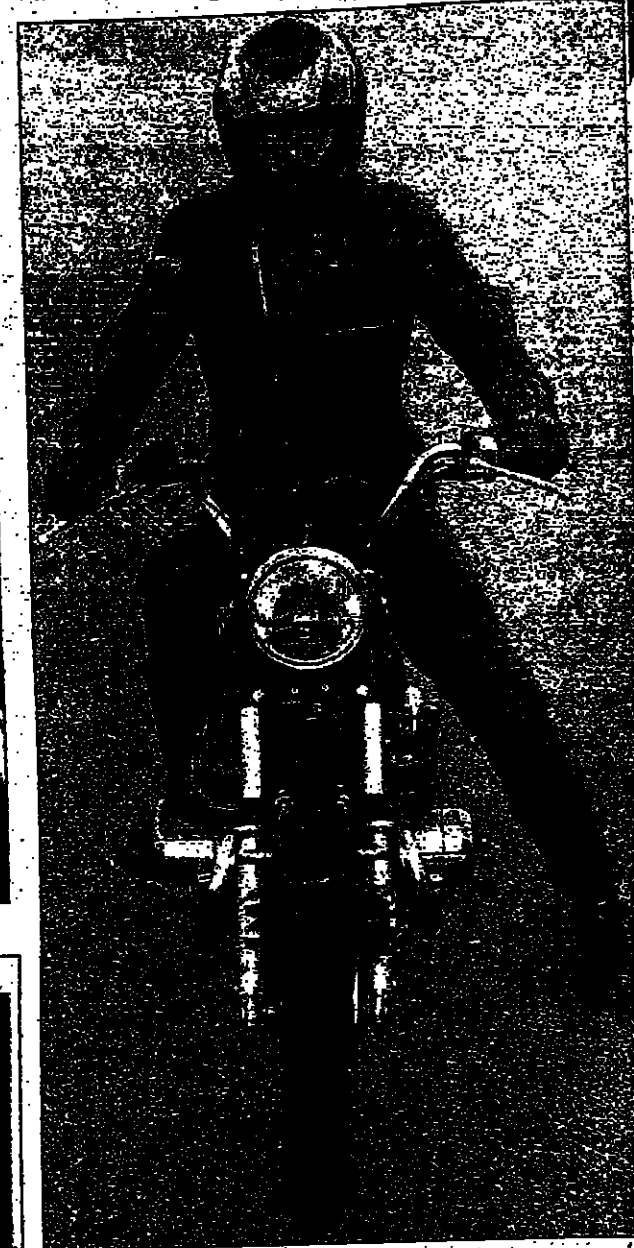
Thirty years ago, they said Japanese bikes would never last; now they have become classics. John Naish reports from the International Motor Cycle Show.



"Eyes on the Road"



Kawasaki dreamin': In America, left, the enthusiasm of the Sixties soon faded, but now the US is a source of machines for collectors like Rick Brett, right, on one of his Kawasaki Triples.



See how the East has won

The massive halls of Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre are filled today with famous historic names, lines and lines of motorcycles with badges as familiar to the British as roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. Except the names are nearly all Japanese.

The UK motorcycle business was almost squeezed to death in the 1960s under the crushing weight of Japanese imports. Enthusiasts complained about "tin-and-plastic gimmicks" and moaned: "They might be fast, but they'll never last."

Yet 30 years later, the International Motor Cycle Show is almost a Japanese banquet. Yamaha, Kawasaki and Honda dominate. Riders 30 years ago should have realised then that the Japanese were here to stay.

Don Leeson, a member of the 6,000-strong Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club, knew they would. Early Japanese bikes are now regarded as classics, and prices are rising fast. Club members, often middle-aged men, either owned machines when they were younger or lusted after them from an impecunious distance.

Not that it seems to stop at one motorcycle. Leeson owns 60, and some members have more than 100. Most popular are the first "superbikes", such as the 1969 Honda 750 — the first mass-produced four-cylinder machine — and the 1973 900cc Kawasaki Z1, which could reach 130mph straight out of the gate.

Rick Brett is president of the Kawasaki Triple Owners Club, with 400 members and has 20 machines. "While they are not as fast as modern

superbikes, they still feel very quick, and the way my old 750 handles, you have to hang on and pray," he says.

Such is the growing enthusiasm that Bob Berry, editor of *Classic and Motorcycle Mechanics*, has changed the magazine's focus from old British bikes to Japanese ones.

"The decade from 1973 to 1983 was the most successful sales period for motorcycles in Britain," he says. "In the days

of Barry Sheene's Grand Prix dominance, registrations reached 400,000 a year. People between 30 and 50 are buying these bikes now because they rode them when they were younger. It is the only area of motorcycling that is growing."

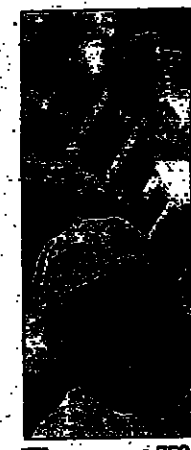
"If you haven't got the inclination or the money to buy a brand-new superbike, you can get just as much excitement buying a mint-condition 1978 Suzuki GS1000 for around £2,000. You can also insure it as a classic machine, which costs

next to nothing, and most spares are still plentiful."

With the current level of demand for classic Japanese bikes in Britain, dealers are importing them from America, where many have survived beautifully in the warm climate. It has helped, too, that many American owners lost enthusiasm after a relatively few miles and stored their machines in their garages.

One West Country dealer claims to have imported 10,000 machines, and competition for pristine examples means that entrepreneurs are now scouring the US looking for specially ordered bikes.

The Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club, PO Box 515, Durdley, Kent DA1 3EE.



The way my 750 handles, you have to hang on and pray. RICK BRETT

AFTER years in the doldrums, two wheels are back. The International Motor Cycle Show will have 450 exhibitors, including 30 new machines from around the world. The Japanese manufacturers, inevitably, are out in enormous force, with Yamaha alone unveiling nine new or revised models for the British market. Suzuki hopes to be seen with its GSX-R 750, based on the chassis of the 800cc superbike, while Honda is bringing a "rejuvenated" five-blade which goes 100mph as well as lots of pre-1970 bikes.

in the form of the revitalised Triumph. Once down and out, the company has raised output from just 1,500 bikes in 1994 to 15,000 expected next year. The Midlands manufacturer introduces a new model in the Thunderbird range — the Adventurer — an 850cc cruiser. Meanwhile, BMW introduces its new R1150T to the British audience. The International Motor Cycle Show is at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, until November 5. Admission: £10 adults, £5 for under-16s and pensioners. Children under 10 go free. Opening times: 10am to 6pm. Parking free for motorcycles, £1.50 for cars.

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